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DELEGATION OF JAPAN TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT,
GENEVA

THIRD SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE 2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY
ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)

- CLUSTER III -

NEW YORK, 5 MAY 2014

Mr. Chairman,

Promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy is one of the three pillars of the NPT, together with the prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons and the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. Under the NPT, all States Parties enjoy the inalienable right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with its Articles I, II and III.

Japan has highly valued the benefits of nuclear energy and developed its nuclear industry for over half a century. Also the growth in nuclear power use in the world, particularly in the developing world, is still continuing, due to the high energy demand worldwide and the need to mitigate the carbon emissions. In such circumstances, we wish to reiterate the importance of ensuring safeguards, nuclear safety and security—so called the “3Ss”—in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, as well as to promote international cooperation in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

The Abe Administration approved Japan’s new Strategic Energy Plan on the 11th of April to set out responsible energy policies that take into account a range of the perspectives, including safety as a major premise, stable energy supply, energy cost reduction and environmental suitability. This Plan fulfills Japan’s responsibilities towards the international community in terms of non-proliferation, nuclear security and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The efforts towards the restoration and reconstruction of Fukushima should be placed at the starting point of rebuilding the energy policy. Decommissioning the TEPCO’s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station and taking countermeasures for the contaminated water issue are unprecedented difficult tasks. Therefore, the Government of Japan does play a more proactive role than before, and undertakes each measure steadily with an unwavering resolve. Also, the Government has been reinforcing its supporting function from technical perspectives by bringing together and utilizing domestic and overseas wisdom in order to steadily proceed with the preventive and multi-layered measures regarding the decommissioning and the contaminated water issue. On these issues, the Government recognizes the importance of providing information to the international community in an accurate and transparent manner and continues strengthening such efforts with a view to improving the global nuclear safety.

The new Strategic Energy Plan priorities the safety assurance before anything else, and identifies nuclear power as an important base-load power source which ensures

stable operation at all times with low production cost.

In the long term, dependency on nuclear power generation will be lowered as much as possible, by saving energy and introducing renewable energy as well as improving the efficiency of thermal power generation. However, the targeted volume of electricity to be secured by nuclear power generation will be deliberated by taking Japan's energy constraints into consideration from the viewpoint of stable energy supply, cost reduction, global warming and maintaining nuclear technologies as well as the high-quality human resources.

Japan will firmly maintain its policy not to possess plutonium reserves without specified purposes. In order to effectively carry out this policy, Japan does pay due consideration to the balance between supply and demand of plutonium. Also, Japan will continue to manage the reserves very carefully.

It is of great importance for Japan to maintain the transparency of the situation of nuclear material. Japan has been making adequate efforts to ensure the transparency and these efforts have been widely accepted not only by the IAEA but also by the international community. Japan will call on the countries concerned to make efforts to ensure the transparency of the situation of nuclear material.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan highly commends that the initiatives by the IAEA Director General in promoting nuclear applications have produced tangible outcomes in such areas as cancer diagnosis and treatment, water management, food security and safety, and climate change. Japan will remain a strong partner in these efforts and continue to support the IAEA's technical cooperation programs to assist developing countries in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Japan has consistently paid its financial share to the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) in full since the foundation of the fund. Japan urges the other IAEA Member States to do the same.

Japan also supports the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) of the IAEA. Having been fully recognizing the high utility and benefit of the PUI, Japan has been making a decent contribution to the PUI every year since 2011 including the decision to extend approximately 2.08 million dollars from fiscal year 2014 budget, and is committed to making continuous and utmost efforts to support this initiative. We appreciate the leadership of the United States and also express our gratitude to the IAEA for its efforts in implementing projects under this initiative. Moreover, we strongly encourage all parties to contribute to this valuable initiative.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan welcomes the successful outcome of the Nuclear Security Summit held in The Hague, the Netherlands in March this year, and appeals to all State Parties to strengthen nuclear security and reduce the continuous threat of nuclear terrorism.

Also, Japan fully supports the IAEA's nuclear security programmes and new initiatives, and commends the IAEA for its efforts to strengthen international cooperation for enhancing nuclear security worldwide.

Japan put forward the prevention of nuclear terrorism as the third pillar of "Three Preventions", which is Japan's new policy concept on non-proliferation. As set out in our working paper 'Strengthening International Nuclear Non-Proliferation' submitted to this session of the Preparatory Committee, strengthening nuclear security is important from the following three perspectives: (1) Japan's national security, (2) maintaining public order, and (3) promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. If many countries build and strengthen their capacity to counter nuclear terrorism, confidence building among nations will be promoted in the field of international security. Japan will continue to actively contribute to strengthening global nuclear security and counter-terrorism activities as one of the countries with the most advanced nuclear technology through various international fora, including the IAEA.

Japan strengthened its domestic system by establishing the Nuclear Regulation Authority in September 2012 to address the 3Ss in an integrated manner. Moreover, Japan is going to receive an International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission by spring 2015. We will continue to enhance activities to foster a nuclear security culture in Japan. As for the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, it was submitted to the Japanese Parliament in February for acceptance.

Japan has been working to minimize sensitive nuclear material to contribute to strengthening global nuclear security. Also, Japan will further promote research and development activities and will reinforce the activities of the Integrated Support Center for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Nuclear Security in order to contribute to the human resource development and capacity building of other countries. We will further strengthen our collaboration with the IAEA and other organizations while enhancing our networking activities with other countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan will continue to work together with the international community to make every effort to promote and ensure the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a safe and sustainable manner.

Thank you.

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