

## **Right of Reply**

Delivered by TSUKAMOTO Kohei  
First Secretary, Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament  
United Nations Disarmament Commission  
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Mr. Chair,

I am obliged to exercise the right of reply in relation to the remarks made by the DPRK yesterday and to the remarks made by China today.

Regarding the remarks made by the DPRK, I would like to emphasize that, for over 70 years since the end of World War II, Japan regards the facts of history in a spirit of humility and has consistently respected democracy and human rights, and contributed to the peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region and the international community.

Under the Constitution, Japan has adhered to the basic percept of maintaining the exclusively defense-oriented policy, not becoming a military power that poses threats to other countries, and observing the Three Non-Nuclear Principles. Japan under these percepts will ever not change the course it has taken as a peace-loving nation. Our defense capability is and will be for Japan's defense towards the future in the face of the most severe and complex security environment since the end of WWII, and we ensure transparency of the content of our defense-related expenditure through

adhering to the strict civilian control of the military.

In the remarks made by the DPRK and China, there were some references to the discharge of ALPS treated water at the Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings' (TEPCO) Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station into the sea. Japan has engaged in discussions based on scientific evidence in a transparent manner at appropriate fora with relevant expertise on this subject, such as the IAEA, and we are willing to continue doing so.

The Government of Japan will never approve the discharge of the water into the sea in a manner that endangers human health and the marine environment.

Japan has been taking measures strictly abiding by relevant international law while giving due considerations to international practice and will continue doing so.

The assessment of radiological environmental impacts was conducted in line with the international guidelines, taking into account the effect of bioaccumulation and long-term accumulation. It shows that the impact on humans and the environment would be minimal, considering biological concentration and long-term accumulation.

Since February 2022, IAEA officials and international experts including Chinese experts nominated by the IAEA visited Japan and have conducted Safety Review and Regulatory Review on the ALPS treated water and the IAEA published progress reports on each of the reviews. During the safety review mission in November 2022, there was a remark from the IAEA that

the IAEA Task Force's findings "have been reflected in Japan's revisions to the plan".

The IAEA and international experts, as third parties, have been reviewing our efforts, and the review will continue. Japan will take measures before the commencement of the discharge, as appropriate, taking into account the observations of the review to be conducted prior to discharge.

The Government of Japan has been explaining this matter to the international community in a highly transparent manner based on scientific evidence and will continue doing so.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.