

Madam Chairperson,

Distinguished delegates,

I would first like to appreciate your indulgence in giving us an opportunity to make a statement today. In light of the increasing need of this First Committee to effectively and timely respond to the reality we face in the international community so that this Committee would not lose its relevance, Japan would like to draw special attention of all the Member States to the statement made by DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday regarding their intention to conduct nuclear testing.

Madam Chairperson,

Japan expresses its deep concern over this statement. Should the DPRK conduct a nuclear test, it would pose a great threat for the peace and security not only of Japan but also of the entire region and beyond. At the same time, it would surely be a serious challenge to the NPT regime. Nuclear test is totally unacceptable. Japan urges the DPRK to exercise its maximum restraints not to conduct nuclear testing.

Japan strongly urges the DPRK to implement faithfully the UN Security Council resolution 1695 (2006), in particular, to return immediately to the Six-Party Talks without precondition, and to implement fully the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks on 19 September 2005, in which the DPRK was committed to abandoning all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes and returning to the NPT and IAEA safeguards.

Madam Chairperson,

Japan requests all Member States to monitor closely the development of this matter with great interest and to squarely face this serious challenge to the international peace and security, with which this Committee is tasked to deal.

Thank you.