

**Statement by Mr. TSUJI Kiyoto, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
at ICONS2024, May 20, 2024**

Co-Presidents,
Director General,
Distinguished Delegates,

Before I get into my statement, I would like to join you in expressing my deepest condolences to the Government of Iran, the Iranian people, and the bereaved families of those on board the emergency landing of the helicopter, including President Raisi and Foreign Minister Abdollahian. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to welcome the convening of the Fourth International Conference on Nuclear Security, and convey my sincere gratitude to Co-Presidents.

Regrettably the draft Ministerial Declaration has not enjoyed consensus, but Japan fully supports the Co-President's Statement, which alternatively demonstrates our shared commitment toward nuclear security.

1. Expanding peaceful use of nuclear energy and the importance of reinforcement of nuclear security

At present, nuclear power generation has attracted worldwide attention in response to increasing energy demand in each country against the backdrop of the global trend toward de-carbonization. The first Nuclear Energy Summit, hosted by the IAEA and the Belgian government in March, is a good example of this.

Meanwhile, the threat of nuclear terrorism remains one of the greatest challenges to the security of the international community.

In parallel with the expansion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy, each country promoting such use must raise its awareness of nuclear security,

such as the risk of proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear materials to non-state actors, and thus needs to make efforts to ensure the highest level of nuclear security.

Japan, the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during war, hosted the G7 Hiroshima Summit last year and sent out a strong message to the world that the catastrophes of atomic bombings must never be repeated.

At the same time, the circumstances surrounding nuclear security is evolving. Recently, the nuclear technology is being utilized in a wider range of ways, including the development of new types of reactors, and we must pay attention to the nuclear security challenges as a result of the advent of such new technology.

Also, Russia's aggression against Ukraine raises a challenge of the risk of attacks on nuclear facilities. In this regard, the IAEA Director General's "seven indispensable pillars for ensuring nuclear safety and security during an armed conflict" should not be compromised.

In this connection, Japan co-sponsored the "International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future (ICONS 2024) Joint Statement on Ukraine" in order to demonstrate that our attitude to stand with Ukraine will never waiver.

2. Japan's efforts to reinforce nuclear security

Co-Presidents,

For the purpose of ensuring the highest level of nuclear security, Japan supports the universalization of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its amendment and also has embarked on various efforts in practice.

For example, in 2022, the Japanese government significantly enhanced its regulatory requirements of computer security for nuclear facilities and

by 2023, the Government of Japan conducted on-site inspections on all operators using radioactive materials in order to confirm whether they conduct the security measures stipulated by law.

We plan to further improve our domestic regulations based on the findings obtained through these inspections.

Furthermore, the Tokyo Electric Power Company received a review from the IAEA expert mission to strengthen nuclear material protection at its Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant in March of this year.

In addition to this, the International Physical Protection Advisory Service mission, or IPPAS mission, is beneficial for strengthening the nuclear security regime, including full implementation of the amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. Japan is scheduled to receive IPPAS mission for the third time from the end of July this year.

Finally, in order to support IAEA activities for development of human resource in nuclear security, Japan contributed through funding to the IAEA nuclear security fund. And also, Japan has continued capacity building supports and technical cooperation through the Integrated Support Center for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Nuclear Security (ISCN) of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA).

We have been training more than 6,000 people at ISCN. ISCN has further strengthened its capacity building capability with the upgrade of its exercise fields, a training facility, together with its new membership of the International Nuclear Security Education Network (INSEN). Japan will continue contributions to develop human resources development.

Also, this year marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540. We need to make a concerted effort to address the issue of nuclear non-proliferation to non-state actors.

3. Concluding remarks

Co-Presidents,

As we work more closely together to strengthen nuclear security, it is extremely important that we all work together to protect and nurture the international authority of the IAEA, which carries out its activities under the outstanding leadership of Director General Grossi.

I would like to conclude with the phrase “Great power comes with great responsibility.” The primary responsibility for ensuring nuclear security rests with each state. In using the convenient and vast power of nuclear energy, respective nation must keep high ethical standards and makes every effort to ensure nuclear security.

Japan will continue to contribute to ensuring the highest level of nuclear security in the international community in collaboration with the IAEA and other countries. Let us “shape the ‘bright’ future” by further promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy while tackling the responsibilities for nuclear security together.

Thank you.