

2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Enhancement of peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology

Working paper submitted by Japan

Introduction

1. The peaceful uses of nuclear energy, enshrined in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as an inalienable right, have contributed to the peace and prosperity of the world, and their significance has been repeatedly confirmed at the past Treaty Review Conferences. While the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy has been the subject of discussion in the international arena for well over half a century, the benefits made available by the peaceful uses of nuclear energy significantly expanded along with advances in nuclear science and technology. In the light of such progress, Japan is of the view that more should be done to enhance peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, recognizing that such uses have the potential to make a tangible contribution to effectively address global challenges for sustainable development and the environment in such a way as to facilitate the future implementation of the upcoming post-2015 development agenda.

2. Japan considers it indispensable to increase awareness among the public in general, across the world, of the tangible benefits made available by and the great potential of nuclear technology for the welfare of humankind. Increased awareness is the key to ensuring the financial and human resources necessary for States to fully realize the potential of such technology.

3. In that regard, the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is indispensable and Japan highly appreciates the long-standing contribution of IAEA to the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its active engagement in addressing global and emerging challenges, as most recently evidenced by its swift response to the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease.

4. With the above recognition, Japan stresses the importance of the following elements for the enhancement of peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology.

5. First, the level of accessibility to nuclear science and technology should be improved for the benefit of the largest possible number of people, in particular in the developing countries. Capacity-building, technology transfer, the provision of



equipment, building cooperation networks, facilitating cooperation among developing countries and reinforcing regional cooperation mechanisms such as the African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology; the Cooperative Agreement for Arab States in Asia for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology; the Regional Cooperative Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean; and the Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia and the Pacific will serve to meet that objective.

6. Second, nuclear science and technology should be utilized in broader areas to better meet the fundamental needs of people in States parties to the Treaty.

7. Third, appropriate and effective levels of nuclear safety and radiation protection should be the prerequisite for the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology in both power and non-power applications.

8. On the basis of the above understandings, Japan wishes to prepare elements for final outcomes of the 2015 Review Conference in for further consideration by States parties, set out below.

Proposed elements for final outcomes of the 2015 Review Conference on the importance of promoting peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology

The Review Conference:

1. Basic principles

Reaffirms that, under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, all States parties enjoy the inalienable right to the development of research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with articles I, II and III.

The Conference also reaffirms that the use of nuclear science and technology must be accompanied by commitments to and on-going implementation of safeguards, as well as safety, security and radiation protection at an appropriate and effective level, in accordance with States' national legislation and respective international obligations.

2. Peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology for addressing global challenges

Stresses that peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology can make unique and significant contributions in addressing various global challenges for sustainable development and the environment, including the implementation of the upcoming post-2015 development agenda, and emphasizes the importance of securing both financial and human resources to effectively address such global challenges.

The Conference recognizes, in this regard, the importance of the following elements for further enhancement of peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology.

Enhancing accessibility to nuclear science and technology

Emphasizes the importance of providing assistance, in particular to developing countries, in order to enhance access to nuclear science and technology, through

various measures including capacity-building, the provision of equipment, strengthening regional networking and regional cooperation frameworks and facilitating cooperation among developing countries, and encourages those States parties and relevant organizations in a position to do so to provide necessary assistance or promote cooperation to this end.

Enhancing opportunity for nuclear application in wider areas

Emphasizes the importance of broadening areas for nuclear applications to enable States to meet their fundamental needs for socioeconomic development in wide-ranging areas such as human health, including cancer therapy; nutrition; food security and safety; agriculture; water management; environmental protection; industrial applications; and energy production.

Enhancing nuclear safety and radiation protection

Emphasizes the importance of enhancing nuclear safety and radiation protection as vital elements for the development of nuclear science and technology, both in nuclear power and non-power applications, and underlines the importance for the States parties to continue to maintain and improve national and international infrastructures for nuclear safety and radiation protection. Notes, in this regard, the continuous improvement of nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, especially in the light of the accident at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. The Conference in this respect urges all States parties to steadily implement the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety.

3. *Role of the International Atomic Energy Agency*

Acknowledges the central role of IAEA in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology in a safe, secure and sustainable manner and, in particular, stresses the importance of the work of IAEA to cooperate with its member States through its Technical Cooperation Programmes based on their respective national needs. The Conference also emphasizes the valuable contribution of IAEA through its work to coordinate international efforts to enhance nuclear safety, radiation protection and nuclear security by fostering information exchanges and knowledge transfer, developing safety standards and other relevant guidance documents, providing peer review services and facilitating relevant international legal frameworks. The Conference encourages States parties to provide necessary support to IAEA in modernizing the Seibersdorf Nuclear Application Laboratories through its Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories (ReNuAL) project to further strengthen the above-mentioned activities of IAEA.

Acknowledges in this respect the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative as a valuable effort to supplement the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund and mobilize additional resources for IAEA programmes, and recognizes that the Initiative and other extrabudgetary contributions have enhanced the application of nuclear science and technology in large numbers of IAEA member States, especially after the launch of the Initiative in 2010. The Conference encourages those States parties, groups of countries and relevant organizations in a position to do so to make contributions to the Initiative or other financial or in-kind contributions to the relevant IAEA activities continuously, including beyond 2015.

4. *International legal frameworks*

Recognizes the importance of improving relevant international legal frameworks in the field of nuclear safety. The Conference welcomes in this regard the progress in enhancing the implementation of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, including the adoption in February 2015 of the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety, and the entry into force of the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage in April 2015, recognizing this as an important step towards establishing a global nuclear liability regime.

5. *Education and public communication*

Recognizes that education and public communication play an important role in disseminating information to and raising the awareness of the public in general on the utility of peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, and encourages all States parties, groups of countries and relevant organizations to work towards this end.
