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International Organizations in Vienna

FIRST SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE 2020 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY
ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)

- CLUSTER II SPECIFIC ISSUE-

VIENNA, 8 MAY 2017

Mr. Chairman,

Japan emphasizes the significant role of the NPT in promoting regional security. We believe that achieving our common goal of non-proliferation through effective implementation and universalization of the Treaty is critically important for maintaining and strengthening regional stability. This objective, however, is gravely challenged by cases in certain regions, which causes serious concern for all of us.

Mr. Chairman,

North Korea's nuclear and missile related activities represent a grave challenge to the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime centered on the NPT. North Korea's ballistic missile related activities leading to its development of nuclear weapons delivery systems further increases tension not only in the Asia Pacific region but also for the world.

Japan urges North Korea not to conduct nuclear and missile related activities, nor to engage in any other destabilizing or provocative actions. We strongly condemn such activities by North Korea which clearly violate the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) as well as the September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks and we renew our strong demand for North Korea to immediately and fully implement them. We also strongly demand that North Korea return, at the earliest date, to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon state and to IAEA safeguards.

Mr. Chairman,

We support the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) as an important contribution to the non-proliferation regime. The JCPOA strengthens the international non-proliferation regime whose cornerstone is the NPT and the stability of the Middle East region. Iran's steady implementation is essential for its success and it constitutes a basis for the cooperation with the international community including Japan.

Japan has offered Iran assistance worth 550,000 Euros for cooperation in the field of nuclear safety through IAEA's Peaceful Uses Initiative and 1.5 million Euros through the IAEA for cooperation in the field of IAEA safeguards implementation. The IAEA plays a significant role in terms of verification and monitoring of the implementation of the JCPOA. As assistance to the IAEA from member states is essential, Japan will continue to support the IAEA.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan remains convinced that the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction based on the 1995 Middle East Resolution would contribute to the progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as well as the strengthening of regional and global peace and security. In order to support the efforts towards its establishment, last year, we held an informal meeting in Nagasaki to exchange

views on this matter, inviting governmental officials from relevant States and experts from academia.

We believe that further steps should be taken for the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of WMD in view of positive and salient elements of the final document of the 2010 Review Conference..

Mr. Chairman,

On South Asia, Japan continues to urge India and Pakistan to accede to the NPT as non-nuclear-weapon States promptly and without conditions.

We also continue to urge both States to maintain their commitments to the moratorium on nuclear tests, and to sign and ratify the CTBT as well as to declare moratorium on fissile material production for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

Japan urges India to maintain and advance the series of commitments and actions in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Japan also urges Pakistan to agree on a programme of work for the Conference on Disarmament including on the immediate commencement of negotiations on an FMCT.

Thank you.

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