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STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MITSURU KITANO,  
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN TO THE  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

SECOND 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 – Regional issues, including with respect to the  
Middle East and implementation of the 1995 Middle East resolution

Geneva, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Mr. Chairman,

Today, we are faced with grave situation in some regions, posing serious challenges to the NPT regime. Japan strongly emphasizes the significant role played by the NPT in promoting regional security.

Mr. Chairman,

North Korea's nuclear and missile program poses grave challenges to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime.

North Korea's moves toward dialogue from their side are the outcome of the international community's coordinated efforts of the maximum pressure campaign against North Korea.

On 27 April, ROK and North Korea announced "the Panmunjeom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula" at the end of the Inter-Korean summit. Japan welcomes a positive development for denuclearization and strongly hopes that this will lead to North Korea's concrete actions to dismantle its all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles. At the same time, we need to urge North Korea to do more than what was announced. We demand North Korea to sign and ratify the CTBT, as well.

Based upon our past experiences, it is important not to ease pressures at a wrong timing. To achieve Complete, Verifiable, and Irreversible Dismantlement, CVID, of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles in North Korea, the international community as a whole must maintain the maximum pressure campaign against North Korea. At the same time, taking advantage of such occasions as summit meeting between US and North Korea, we need to urge North Korea to take concrete actions.

A nuclear armed North Korea is not, and will never be accepted. Nor North Korea shall never be recognized as a nuclear-weapon State under the NPT. We strongly demand that North Korea immediately come into full compliance with the NPT and the IAEA safeguards.

With regard to verification of nuclear materials and facilities, the IAEA, with its long accumulated expertise in this field, has a central role to play. Thus, Japan, together with countries concerned, stands ready to closely

cooperate with the IAEA, which could mobilize its knowledge and experiences towards the denuclearization of North Korea.

Mr. Chairman,

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) contributes to strengthening the international non-proliferation regime centered on the NPT and the stability of the Middle East region. Its continued and full implementation is important.

The IAEA plays a significant role in terms of verification and monitoring of the implementation of the JCPOA. Broad support from the international community is crucial, and Japan will continue to support the IAEA in performing its vital role.

As for the issue of the launching of ballistic missile by Iran, we hope that it will be resolved through the consultations among related countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan remains convinced that the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction would contribute to the progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as well as the strengthening of regional and global peace and security.

It is important for the whole NPT community to realize the conference attended by all States of the Middle East.

Towards a successful outcome at the 2020 NPT Review Conference, it is imperative to pursue the progress of discussions on this issue.

We acknowledge the League of Arab States has discussed this issue actively. It is our sincere hope that efforts by the states in the region will be conducive to its advancement of dialogue.

We expect the 3 co-conveners to exert their leadership. We also recognize the important role played by the United Nations. At the same time, we emphasize that the entire NPT community should proactively engage in this issue, considering the impact of this issue to the NPT regime.

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 take concrete actions towards signing and ratifying the CTBT.

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.