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STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MITSURU KITANO,
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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 III PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY GENEVA,

1 MAY 2018

Mr. Chairman,

The promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the third pillar of the NPT, is of great importance to maintain and reinforce the NPT regime. At the same time, maintaining and strengthening the NPT regime are essential for the enhancement of international cooperation for the peaceful uses. In this cluster, we should engage in a constructive discussion and create the momentum towards a positive outcome at the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

The importance of nuclear science and technology for socio economic development continues to grow. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) becomes high on our agenda. In this context, Japan reaffirms the importance of the inalienable right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy of State Parties in conformity with non-proliferation obligations, as stated in the article IV of the Treaty. On this basis, Japan calls on State Parties to work together in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and providing State Parties access to all benefits from the peaceful uses.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe these activities can deliver tangible results which support the attainment of the SDGs. For the past decades, the IAEA has contributed significantly to the promotion of the peaceful uses. The IAEA's Director General Amano is working towards the achievement of the SDGs under the motto "Atoms for Peace and Development." Japan strongly supports the IAEA's activities for promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

In addition to contribution to Technical Cooperation Fund, Japan has contributed approximately 20 million dollars to the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) since the 2015 NPT Review Conference to support a wide variety of the projects.

This year, Japan has already disbursed about 3.3 million dollars to enhance the IAEA's assistance capability for an emergency response to global threats such as infectious diseases and natural disasters. Japan calls on State Parties in a position to do so, to support this effective initiative, the PUI.

Mr. Chairman,

The Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories (ReNuAL) project of the IAEA will greatly contribute to the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Japan has disbursed about 6 million dollars to the project and welcomes the progress made until now. Japan believes the Laboratories in Seibersdorf will bring benefits to all the countries, and therefore hopes the project to be completed with wide ranging support from State Parties.

The IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology in November this year will be a valuable opportunity to promote the application of nuclear science and technology. As a co-chair of the conference, Japan is making its utmost efforts in the preparation process so that the conference will be successful.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan is actively supporting IAEA's human resource development and technological transfer. For instance, we host a number of IAEA workshops and training courses in Japan. Also, Japanese experts participate in IAEA projects, especially those under the RCA and Japanese companies support IAEA activities including through the provision of equipment. Japan continues to place priority on expanding these human and technological contributions.

It is essential for the IAEA to build new partnerships with other international organizations and private sectors, in order to respond to increasingly growing needs in the area of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Japan also commends IAEA's efforts for the partnership-building.

Mr. Chairman,

The promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be underpinned by efforts to ensure the highest standards of safety and security. I would like to stress the importance of achieving and maintaining the highest levels of nuclear safety and security to this end. In this respect, development of safety infrastructure and human resources is essential, and we should continue to share and build on lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi accident

For example, the IAEA's first Capacity Building Center (CBC) was designated in Fukushima in 2013, where workshops on emergency preparedness and responses have been organized for government officials from various countries. Around 400 people from about 60 countries of the Asia-Pacific and beyond have so far participated in the workshops.

Mr. Chairman,

International organizations such as the IAEA and the OECD/NEA play important roles in promoting nuclear safety worldwide through such functions as establishing safety standards and codes, and conducting peer reviews. Japan has been actively engaged in international cooperation conducted through these organizations.

Conventions regarding nuclear safety provide platforms for international cooperation in enhancing nuclear safety. We encourage the Contracting Parties of

these conventions to commit themselves to working toward their universalization as well as effective and sustainable implementation based on the principles of Vienna Declaration. Later this month, the 6th Joint Convention Review Meeting will be held in Vienna, and we encourage Contracting Parties to actively participate in the meeting. Also, with regard to the international legal frameworks on nuclear liability, Japan encourages all countries to join relevant international legal instruments, in particular the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage, with a view to establishing an international liability regime.

Mr. Chairman,

While recognizing that it is the responsibility of each country to ensure the safety and security of their nuclear facilities, Japan stresses the role of all stakeholders involved in nuclear cooperation and trade in promoting nuclear safety and security. Those include assisting the development of the recipient countries' infrastructure according to the highest standards of safety and security. In this regard, Japan calls upon all nuclear supplier states to take appropriate measures, prior to entering into a contract to supply a nuclear power plant, in line with international best practices, to assure themselves that recipient states have a robust domestic nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation infrastructure and have hosted IAEA peer review missions.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, as a leading country in applications of nuclear science and technology, Japan renews its strong commitment to working together with NPT State Parties, the international organizations such as the IAEA and the whole international community for the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.