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2nd Session of the Prep Com for the 2020 Rev Con of the Parties to the Treaty on
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

- CLUSTER III SPECIFIC ISSUE-
and
-IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF
THE STRENGTHENED REVIEW PROCESS-

GENEVA, 2 MAY 2018

(Improving the effectiveness of the strengthened review process)

Mr. Chairman,

As a member of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiatives (NPDI), Japan associates with the two Working Papers submitted by the NPDI, regarding “the Action to strengthen the review process for the NPT” and “Proposals by the NPDI to enhance transparency for strengthening the review process for the NPT.” In addition to these efforts, I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

(Enhancing transparency)

Mr. Chairman,

Japan has been continuously emphasizing the importance of enhancing transparency and promoting institutionalization of reporting in order to review effectively the implementation by States Parties of NPT provisions and their obligations, particularly in nuclear disarmament, based on standard and regular reporting.

Reporting by States Parties on the implementation of their obligations and commitments under the NPT will contribute to ensure accountability and to build confidence between States. In this regard, it is critical that transparency and reporting are firmly embedded to strengthen the NPT review process.

It is with this recognition that the NPDI’s working paper (NPT/CONF.2020/PC.II/WP.26) makes various proposals to both nuclear weapon States and non-nuclear weapon States. They include (1) proposal for

nuclear weapon States to agree upon a “standard reporting form” and (2) proposal for the Chair of the 2019 Preparatory Committee to usefully explore allocating time to review the proportion of States Parties issuing regular reporting and to identify and remove any barriers to optimal reporting, among others. Japan is also committed to submitting its national report regarding the implementation of the NPT.

(Other initiatives and suggestion to establish a Working Group)

Mr. Chairman,

Japan recognizes that it could be useful to have substantive discussions to strengthen the NPT Review Process under a Working Group suggested by the NPDI. In doing so, it is also important to take into consideration past proposals which were made to improve its effectiveness and efficiency.

My delegation also would like to point out the importance of cooperation and coordination between Chairs of the Preparatory Committees and President of the Review Conference. From this viewpoint, we consider that in this review process cooperation and coordination between Chairs are well implemented, which we highly welcome. Japan welcomes this good effort and will support fully the Chairman of the 3rd Session of the Preparatory Committee of Malaysia, to maintain this practice.

We also highlight the importance for the bureau of the 2020 Review Conference to be formed at an early date. In view of our past experience, early formulation of the bureau is instrumental for the success of the Review Process.

Regarding the way to strengthen the NPT Review Process, in addition to the aforementioned points, States Parties have many topics to discuss. Therefore, we would find it useful to establish a Working Group in order to discuss these points in an interactive manner while also involving representatives from various groups.

(Importance of upholding and preserving effective NPT)

Mr. Chairman,

Japan is of the view that the integrity and universality of the Treaty must be maintained. In this regard, tangible progress needs to be made in the implementation of the measures adopted in the past NPT review

processes, including the 2010 Action Plan.

We should also remain committed to promoting universal adherence to the NPT. In this regard, Japan calls on all countries not party to the NPT to participate in this Treaty.

(Recent Development in the Korean Peninsula)

Mr. Chairman,

Lastly but not the least, serious nuclear challenges posed by North Korea are another acute reminder that it is necessary to strengthen the NPT regime today. A nuclear armed North Korea is not, and will never be accepted. Japan welcomes the recent positive development for denuclearization of North Korea and strongly hopes that it takes concrete actions to dismantle all its weapons of mass destruction and all ranges of ballistic missiles in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner. In addition, we strongly demand that North Korea immediately come into full compliance with the NPT obligations and the IAEA safeguards. All the NPT States parties should remain firm on this point.

Taking into account the aforementioned points, Japan would like to stress the importance of addressing these issues in the course of this review process.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.