

Statement by Mr. Nobuharu IMANISHI

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Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
Cluster I: Specific Issues: Security Assurances
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Mr. Chairman,

Credible security assurances by nuclear-weapon States (NWS) to non-nuclear-weapon States (NNWS) contribute to strengthening the global non-proliferation regime, building confidence among States and improving the security environment. Japan believes that effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (NSAs) could not only strengthen the NPT but also serve as an important intermediary step toward the ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Given the ongoing challenges to the peace and security of the international community, Japan recognizes the legitimate interest of NNWS parties to the NPT that are in compliance with their nuclear-non-proliferation obligations to receive unequivocal and legally binding security assurances. NSAs are in the legitimate interest of NNWS and provide those States with incentives to remain party to the NPT. Based on the United Nations Security Council resolution 984 and the final documents of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, we call upon all NWS to fully respect their commitments with regard to security assurances and we encourage those NWS that have not yet done so to extend security assurances to NNWS parties to the NPT.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones will contribute to strengthening the international non-proliferation regime. As noted in Action 9 of the 2010 Final Document, we encourage the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, where appropriate, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region concerned and in accordance with the 1999 guidelines of the Disarmament Commission. By signing and ratifying relevant protocols that contain negative security assurances, NWSs would undertake individual commitments with respect to the status of such zones to not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against States that are party to such protocols. These commitments will contribute to further improving the security environment and to strengthening the NPT regime. In this regard, we welcome that five NWS are willing to restart consultation with Southeast Asian countries on the Protocol to the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.