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STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MITSURU KITANO,
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TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

THIRD 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

New York, 3rd May 2019

Mr. Chairman,

The NPT regime has been facing serious challenges which could undermine our confidence in the NPT. Japan strongly believes that all States need to reinforce their non-proliferation efforts in order to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy while minimizing threats posed by possible nuclear proliferation. To this end, Japan supports the strengthening of the IAEA safeguards system, export controls, as well as the global nuclear security architecture.

Mr. Chairman,

As for North Korea, Japan reaffirms its strong commitment to working with the international community in achieving complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges, as well as related programs and facilities in accordance with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs).

The international community needs to come together to support progress in the process between the US and North Korea. Japan emphasizes the critical importance for all States to fully implement relevant UNSCRs. Japan calls upon all States to continue working collectively to this end.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan continues to firmly support the JCPOA, as it strengthens the international non-proliferation regime and contributes to the peace and stability of the Middle East region. Iran's steady implementation of the JCPOA is the basis for further cooperation between Iran and the international community, and therefore we will continue to support Iran's implementation.

With respect to these important regional issues, my delegation would like to make further remarks in the Specific Issue session.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to stress that IAEA Safeguards are the fundamental component of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Steady implementation of safeguards is the fundamental obligation of respective States and it is essential for ensuring the transparency and sustainability of their nuclear activities. Japan remains committed to its implementation of safeguards as a responsible state and continues to support the IAEA's work in making safeguards more effective and efficient.

Additionally, I would like to point out that the Comprehensive Safeguard Agreement (CSA) and the Additional Protocol (AP) should be recognized as the verification standard under the NPT.

We welcome the number of States with the AP has increased by about 50 since 2010. Japan believes that the universalization of the AP is one of the most important goals in strengthening the effectiveness of IAEA safeguards.

In this respect, we believe that it remains our key objective to increase the number of States with the CSA and AP as well as the modified Small Quantity Protocols to the CSA, where applicable. To this end, we emphasize the importance of promoting international cooperation including through capacity building.

At the same time, Japan calls for a wider application of safeguards for civil nuclear facilities in the nuclear-weapon States, and call on these States to declare to the IAEA all fissile materials no longer required for military purposes.

Mr. Chairman,

Export controls play a critical role in meeting the nuclear non-proliferation obligations under the NPT. All States should further strengthen national export controls including catch-all and intangible technology transfer controls.

Japan further encourages States to adhere to the Nuclear Suppliers Group Guidelines and the Zangger Committee Trigger List, as these guidelines provide a standard for export controls. Japan will cooperate with other partners for the universalization of these guidelines.

Japan strongly believes that enhancing the implementation of UNSCR 1540 is imperative, especially the obligations on export controls.

It is important that we do not allow any “loopholes” in the export control systems. Japan will continue to actively assist other States, especially in Asia, to strengthen their export control systems including through the Asian Export Control Seminar, which has been held annually in Japan since 1993, as well as through the enhancement of the implementation of UNSCR 1540.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear security, together with nuclear safety and safeguards, is an important foundation for the sustainable use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. While recognizing that the responsibility rests on each State to ensure nuclear security domestically, we further encourage States to take proactive actions, which include responses to emerging threats such as cyberattacks and insider threats. In addition, we promote the conclusion of relevant international instruments such as the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM) and its Amendment, and the International Convention on Suppression of Act of Nuclear Terrorism (ICS/ANT).

The IAEA plays a central role in taking the initiative and coordinating the promotion of international cooperation in the area of nuclear security. Japan has supported and will continue to support the IAEA's activities.

Japan will intensify its efforts to combat nuclear terrorism in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games and other major public events, including through the Practical Arrangements on Nuclear Security Cooperation for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games which Japan and the IAEA signed last year.

Japan will contribute constructively in the "International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts (ICONS2020)" which will be organized by the IAEA in February 2020.

Capacity-building is a key element of nuclear security. Japan has been contributing in this field, providing training courses, workshops and seminars for many years both in Japan and abroad in close coordination with the IAEA.

I assure the international community that Japan is determined to advance international cooperation to further strengthen nuclear security.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.