

<Check against delivery>

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MITSURU KITANO,
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN
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 Specific Issue

Regional issues, including with respect to the Middle East and
implementation of the 1995 Middle East Resolution

New York, 3rd May 2019

Mr. Chairman,

Japan emphasizes the significant role of the NPT in promoting regional security. We believe that achieving our common goal of non-proliferation through effective implementation and universalization of the Treaty is critically important for maintaining and strengthening regional stability. This objective, however, is gravely challenged by cases of non-compliance with the Treaty or IAEA safeguards obligations in certain regions, among other things, which cause serious concern for all of us.

Mr. Chairman,

At the second Summit between the US and North Korea, President Trump, with his strong determination to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, decided that he would not make any concession easily and at the same time continue constructive discussions and urge North Korea to take concrete actions. Japan fully supports that decision. Japan continues to support the process between the US and North Korea and closely coordinate with the international community toward the resolution of outstanding issues of concern regarding North Korea.

North Korea has not carried out the dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner: There has been no essential change in North Korea's nuclear and missile capabilities.

Japan reaffirms its strong commitment to working with the international community in achieving complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all of North Korea's nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, ballistic missiles of all ranges as well as related programs and facilities in accordance with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs). We call upon North Korea to come into full compliance with the NPT and the IAEA safeguards and to sign and ratify the CTBT.

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, and calls upon all States to continue working collectively to this end.

Japan highly appreciates the IAEA Secretariat's work to enhance the Agency's ability and readiness to verify North Korea's nuclear program. Japan considers the importance that the Agency's expertise, knowledge and experience will be utilized.

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.

It is of great importance that the Agency continues to verify and monitor Iran's implementation of the Additional Protocol and its other nuclear related commitments under the JCPOA. Japan would like to emphasize that the support of the international community remains crucial, as the Agency assumes an increasingly essential role.

The exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program and non-diversion must be ensured through the full implementation of the JCPOA. In this regard, the early ratification of the AP by Iran is essential.

As for the issue of the launching of a ballistic missile by Iran, we call upon Iran not to undertake any activity inconsistent with UNSCR 2231 and to play a constructive role in the stability of the Middle East.

Mr. Chairman,

It is regrettable that there has not been substantial progress in Syria's NPT safeguards noncompliance. We continue to call upon Syria to fully cooperate with the IAEA to remedy the unresolved issue. We also call upon Syria to sign, ratify and implement the AP.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan remains convinced that the establishment of a Middle East zone free of 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 of importance for the entire NPT community to encourage the establishment of such a zone on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the concerned region. Towards a successful outcome at the 2020 NPT Review Conference, it is imperative to pursue the progress of discussions on this issue.

While noting the UN General Assembly's adoption of a decision calling for the UN Secretary General to convene a conference in 2019 on the establishment of such a zone, Japan believes it is vital to ensure participation of all States of the Middle East and the three co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution.

We emphasize that the entire NPT community should proactively engage in this issue, considering the impact of this issue on the NPT regime. Where appropriate, Japan is prepared to support and facilitate efforts by all States of the Middle East and the three co-sponsors to convene an international conference, based upon the agreement by those states.

Mr. Chairman,

On the region of 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.

We believe such efforts gain further importance to reduce nuclear risk in the region.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.