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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 III PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

NEW YORK,

6 MAY 2019

Mr. Chairman,

Japan attaches great importance to the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which is an inalienable right of States Parties that accept non-proliferation obligations, as stated in Article IV of the Treaty. It is one of the three pillars of the NPT, and we believe that the international cooperation in this area serves to maintain and reinforce the NPT regime. Constructive deliberations in this Cluster 3 are one of the essential factors in creating momentum for reaching a consensus at the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

In this connection, we acknowledge the idea of organizing regional workshops with an aim towards fostering better understanding of the NPT among various stakeholders. We believe that such activities are of great value, providing positive momentum for the NPT process.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan commends the significant contributions and tangible results attained by the IAEA over the past decades in promoting the peaceful uses. We strongly support the efforts by the IAEA under Director General Amano's motto, "Atoms for Peace and Development". Such efforts contribute directly to achieving the SDGs.

In this regard, it was our honour and pleasure to co-chair, along with Costa Rica, “The IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology” last November in Vienna. The Conference contributed to reaffirming the significant role that nuclear science and technology play in socio-economic development and beyond. Building upon the conference’s outcome of a Ministerial Declaration, we call upon States Parties to work together in promoting the peaceful uses, as well as making its benefits available to States Parties.

The Technical Cooperation Fund of the IAEA represents the major financial resource of its technical cooperation activities. We would like to emphasize that Japan has consistently paid its share in full for over 40 years. In addition to the financial contributions, Japan has also been actively supporting the IAEA’s human resource development and technology transfer. Many Japanese experts participate in IAEA projects, especially those under the RCA, and Japanese companies support IAEA activities through the provision of equipment or dispatch of experts among others. Japan continues to place priority on expanding these human-resource and technological contributions.

We would like to highlight the importance of fair and transparent management of such activities, as well as adequate allocation of the TCF for the

developing countries to meet their development needs in a more effective and efficient manner.

The Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) bears importance with its role in supplementing the TCF. At the 2015 NPT Review Conference, Japan announced a 25 million dollar contribution over the following 5 years to the PUI, and has already contributed approximately 24 million dollars since, which supports a wide variety of IAEA projects as additional funds. This year, Japan allocated about 1.8 million dollars to assist in enhancing the capacity of Member States for rapid response to food safety incidents and emergencies. The PUI is an effective tool for supporting the peaceful applications of nuclear technology.

In order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of IAEA projects, it is important for the IAEA to enhance its partnership with the development community. Japan encourages the IAEA to establish and bolster the cooperation with traditional and non-traditional partners such as other international organizations and private companies.

Mr. Chairman,

The renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories (ReNuAL) project

of the IAEA will greatly contribute to the promotion of the peaceful uses. Japan has been supporting the project by allocating more than 6 million dollars, and welcomes the progress that has been made so far. We believe that the renovated Laboratories in Seibersdorf will bring further benefits to all Member States, and therefore hope that the project will be completed with wide-ranging support from Member States.

In this regard, as announced by Mr. Tsuji, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs on the first day of this committee, Japan decided to make an additional allocation of 300,000 Euros through the PUI to the ReNuAL project, and we encourage Member States to make contributions towards this project.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan recognizes that the promotion of the peaceful uses must be accompanied by commitments to the highest standards of safety, security, as well as effective safeguards. These are the integral elements which enable sustainable and responsible peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and these two aspects are not in zero-sum relation. For this realization, it is important to deepen these understandings among both developed and developing countries through concrete cooperation in the field of IAEA projects.

Mr. Chairman,

In relation to nuclear safety, the development of safety infrastructure and human resources is essential, and we should continue to share and build upon the lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi accident.

Furthermore, Japan has been supporting the IAEA's first Capacity Building Center (CBC) designated in Fukushima in 2013, where workshops on emergency preparedness and responses have been organized for government officials from various countries. Around 480 people from about 70 countries have participated in the workshops so far. Japan has also been carrying out various capacity building cooperation in the fields of nuclear security and safeguards.

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 conducting peer reviews. Japan continues to engage actively in international cooperation promoted through these organizations.

The 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 towards their universalization as well as effective and sustainable implementation based on the principles of the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety. International legal frameworks on nuclear liability are indispensable in ensuring nuclear safety. Japan encourages all countries to conclude the relevant international legal instruments, in particular the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage, with a view towards establishing an international nuclear liability regime.

While recognizing that it is the responsibility of each country to ensure the safety of their nuclear facilities, Japan stresses the responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in nuclear cooperation and trade in promoting nuclear safety. This includes 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, 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,

To conclude, as a leading country in applications of nuclear science and technology, Japan renews its strong commitment to fulfill its responsibility by working together with NPT States Parties, international organizations such as the IAEA, and the entire international community for the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

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