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3rd 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 -

(Peaceful uses of nuclear energy and other provisions of the Treaty, Improving the
effectiveness of the strengthened review process)

NEWYORK, 6 MAY 2019

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

As the 2020 Review Conference marks the 50th anniversary of the entry-into-force of the NPT, it is pertinent to reconsider and explore ways to enhance the review process in order to achieve substantive results in each aspect of the NPT regime through the strengthened review processes.

As a member of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiatives (NPDI), Japan associates with the Working Paper submitted by the NPDI, regarding “Enhancing national reporting as a key transparency and confidence-building measure” and the statements made by the Netherlands on behalf of 48 countries on “Further strengthening the NPT Review Process”. In addition to these efforts, I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

(Enhancing transparency)

Mr. Chairman,

Japan would like to reiterate the importance of enhancing transparency through reporting mechanism in order to review effectively the implementation by the States Parties of NPT provisions and their obligations, based on standardized and regular reporting, particularly in nuclear disarmament, in which further efforts by the State Parties for its strict implementation is desired, for the sake of the NPT regime.

In this regard, we would like to draw your attention on the NPDI's working paper on transparency (NPT/CONF.2020/PC.III/WP.xx) which mentions the importance of reporting mechanism, especially the application of the standard reporting form. In this context, I would like to highlight that the "Kyoto Appeal" by the Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament (EPG) also gives us insightful suggestions including the promotion of further explanation and sharing information regarding nuclear doctrines, deterrence policies, risk reduction measures, and security assurances among Nuclear-weapon State, through P-5 process and with non-nuclear-weapon States through NPT Review Process, as a mean to advance nuclear disarmament.

Reporting and sharing information by States Parties on the implementation of their obligations and commitments under the NPT will contribute to ensuring accountability of the implementation of the NPT and building confidence among States. In this regard, it is critical that the enhancement of transparency through reporting is firmly embedded to strengthen the NPT review process.

(Strengthening the review process)

Mr. Chairman,

In order to achieve successful outcomes through the NPT Review Process, it is indispensable to reconsider and explore ways on how to address to substantive issues of Treaty implementation, and how to employ such working methods.

As there are diverse perspectives and a variety of topics within the spectrum of the NPT, we consider that an establishment of a Working Group which discusses focusing on each of these topics in an interactive manner should be useful, as was proposed by NPDI during the 2nd Prep Com in Geneva in 2018. We consider it is also effective to allocate time to have discussion for this purpose at the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

Besides, we also highlight the importance for the bureau of the 2020

Review Conference to be formed at an early date, including nomination of its Chair. It is essential that the bureau starts to work as soon as possible in order to realize sufficient results in the 2020 Review Conference.

(Importance of upholding and preserving effective NPT)

Mr. Chairman,

Japan believes it is essential to maintain the integrity and universality of the Treaty. In this regard, the whole NPT community has to aim at tangible progress in the implementation of measures and documents adopted in the past NPT Review Processes.

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 as a non-nuclear-weapon State.

Japan would like to stress the importance of addressing these issues with a view to achieve successful outcome of the 2020 Review Conference and improve the effectiveness of the 2025 review process.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.