

**Statement by Ambassador OZAWA Toshiro
Representative of Japan
to Main Committee II of the
10th Review Conference of the Parties to
the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

Madam Chair,

The Japanese delegation congratulates you on assuming the Chair of Main Committee II and reassures you of our delegation's fullest support to you so that together with fellow colleagues we can conclude our deliberations with fruitful outcomes.

I wish to share with you and fellow colleagues Japan's position on issues to be addressed in this Committee.

Ukraine

Madam Chair,

First of all, Japan is gravely concerned about the nuclear safety, security and safeguards situation at Ukraine's nuclear facilities. Prime Minister KISHIDA made clear at the General Debate last week that, the recent attacks on nuclear facilities by Russia must not be tolerated. Japan believes normal implementation of the mandate of the IAEA within Ukraine in its normal form, as well as the restoration of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, should be the way forward to ensure nuclear safety and security. Japan condemns in the strongest terms the reckless, and unacceptable continuing aggression by the Russian Federation, and strongly urges the Russian Federation to immediately cease all attacks and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

Safeguards

Madam Chair,

There can be no doubt that the NPT continues to be the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and the international safeguards system is fundamental to its continued success. We need to strengthen the effectiveness and improve the efficacy of IAEA safeguards so that the Agency can verify convincingly that all nuclear material and technology are used only for peaceful purposes. Japan further stresses the need to universalize the Comprehensive Safeguards

Agreement, its Additional Protocols, and, where applicable, the revised Small Quantities Protocol. In this regard, Japan welcomes that, since the 2015 conference, 14 States parties have concluded the additional protocol and 22 States have accepted the revised SQP. Japan will continue to work with the IAEA and other AP Friends in Vienna to facilitate the conclusion of an AP by states not yet to do so.

Export Controls

Madam Chair,

Export controls significantly contributes to our shared objective of nuclear non-proliferation. Japan encourages all States to further strengthen national export controls in alignment with existing guidelines such as the NSG guidelines and the Zangger Committee Trigger List. Japan will continue to assist other States, especially in the Indo-Pacific, to strengthen their export control systems in order to enhance the implementation of UNSCR 1540.

DPRK (North Korea)

Madam Chair,

Japan is deeply concerned with North Korea's continuing serious challenge to the NPT regime. Since the previous Review Conference in 2015, North Korea has conducted three nuclear tests and launched about 100 ballistic missiles including ICBMs. There are also concerns over the possibility of another nuclear test by North Korea. North Korea is intensifying its nuclear and missile activities and is challenging flagrantly the international non-proliferation order including the NPT.

Therefore, the Conference should send the following message to North Korea in a clear, decisive and robust manner:

-First, to reaffirm our strong commitment to the goal of achieving complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all nuclear weapons, any other existing weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges as well as related programs of North Korea in accordance with relevant UNSC resolutions.

-Second, to call upon all members of international community to fully implement all relevant UNSC resolutions.

-Third, to strongly urge North Korea to return at an early date to full compliance with the NPT and IAEA safeguards.

As Prime Minister KISHIDA clearly stated at the General Debate, Japan will continue

to closely coordinate with the international community toward the resolution of issues of concern regarding North Korea.

Iran

Madam Chair,

Japan firmly supports the JCPOA and the constructive dialogue among relevant countries in the previous rounds, which aims for immediate return to compliance with the JCPOA by all relevant countries. Japan expresses its strong concern over Iran's continued actions inconsistent with its commitments and the IAEA's finding that nuclear material has been present at undeclared locations in Iran. Japan continues to strongly support the relevant IAEA's activities regarding these issues.

Syria

With regard to Syria's NPT safeguards noncompliance, Japan reiterates its call to Syria to cooperate fully with the IAEA to dispel the concerns of the international community.

Middle East

Madam Chair,

Japan emphasizes that the NPT community needs to encourage the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the concerned region. Bearing in mind our experience at the last NPT review Conference, it is imperative to pursue a common ground on this issue among all relevant parties.

Conclusion

To conclude, I would like to stress that the Japanese delegation intends to contribute positively to the coming discussions. We will cooperate with you, Madam Chair, so that together with our fellow colleagues we can achieve positive outcomes on the issues before us.

Thank you, Madam Chair.