

**Statement by H.E. Mr. HIKIHARA Takeshi
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Japan
Main Committee III at the NPT Review Conference in 2022**

(8 August 2022)

Chair,

Let me start by congratulating you, Ambassador Denissen, on your assumption of the post of Chairperson for the Main Committee III. Japan is ready to lend you our utmost support as you steer the work of this committee.

Chair,

First of all, I would like to recall that Prime Minister KISHIDA made it clear in his statement at the General Debate last week that the attacks on nuclear facilities by Russia must not be tolerated. Japan condemns in the strongest terms this reckless and unacceptable action and the continuing aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation. The military operations at and around nuclear facilities of Ukraine have caused unprecedented danger of a nuclear accident, putting the lives of people living in Ukraine and in neighboring countries at enormous risk. In this context, Japan strongly supports the seven pillars of nuclear safety and security outlined by IAEA Director General Grossi and calls on all States Parties to observe them in all circumstances.

Japan firmly supports the efforts of the IAEA to provide assistance for the safe and secure operation of Ukraine's nuclear facilities, as well as to maintain proper safeguards activities. To support the IAEA's activities for Ukraine, Japan announced a pledge of 2 million euros in this May.

Chair,

The peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology have been promoted in the past 7 years since the last Review Conference and a large number of State parties have received its benefits. Their potential to make a tangible contribution to effectively addressing global challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, and to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals has become widely recognized. Japan welcomes this development and strongly supports the IAEA's

initiatives, including the ZODIAC, NUTEC Plastics and Rays of Hope.

Chair,

Under the NPT, all States parties enjoy the inalienable right to the development of research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with articles of the NPT. At the same time, the use of nuclear science and technology must be accompanied by commitment to the highest standards of safety, security, as well as effective safeguards.

Based upon these basic principles, Japan submitted a Working Paper entitled “Enhancement of peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology” to this Review Conference.

Chair,

Japan underscore the need to enhance access to nuclear science and technology, especially, for the benefit of developing countries, through various measures including capacity-building and provision of equipment.

Japan also emphasizes the importance of further broadening areas for nuclear applications such as human health, food and agriculture, land and water management, environmental protection, as well as energy production.

Japan acknowledges the central role of the IAEA in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. We stress the significance of the work of the IAEA through its Technical Cooperation Programs to cooperate with its Member States. The Peaceful Uses Initiative, PUI, is a valuable mechanism that supplements the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund. Japan has contributed more than 50 million US dollars in total to support this initiative.

Chair,

The Fukushima Daiichi accident reminded us all of the utmost importance of nuclear safety worldwide. The promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy is best achieved by incorporating experience and lessons learned therefrom in the field of nuclear safety. The International Conference on a Decade of Progress after Fukushima-Daiichi: Building on the Lessons Learned to Further Strengthen Nuclear

Safety held by the IAEA in November 2021 made substantial contribution in this context.

Chair,

Japan also encourages all States parties to work together to raise awareness of peaceful uses and improve access to them through a Sustained Dialogue including with actors non-traditional to the nuclear community, focusing on bringing in new voices and perspectives, driving global awareness of their potential to address development challenges, and identifying new opportunities for peaceful uses assistance and cooperation in this regard.

Chair,

Japan will continue to work together with the international community to make every effort to promote and ensure the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a safe, secure and sustainable manner.

Chair,

Let me add that the issues of withdrawal and strengthening the NPT review process are also important subjects under this Committee. Since I don't want to spend more time here, I would like to provide the Secretariat with my written statement on these issues for official record and to further elaborate on this topic in the Subsidiary Body.

Thank you, Chair.