

(Check against delivery)

**Statement by Ambassador HIKIHARA Takeshi,  
Permanent Representative of Japan  
to the International Organizations in Vienna**

**Cluster 2 of the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the  
2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the  
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

Thank you, Chair,

As the NPT regime faces serious challenges, robust non-proliferation efforts by the international community as a whole are imperative. To this end, Japan supports the strengthening of the IAEA safeguards system and of export controls.

**Safeguards**

Mr. Chair,

There is no doubt that the NPT continues to be the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and that the international safeguards system is fundamental for its success. We need to strengthen the effectiveness and improve the efficacy of IAEA safeguards so that the Agency can convincingly verify that all nuclear materials and technology are used only for peaceful purposes. In this regard, we believe that the Additional Protocol (AP), along with a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA), should be the safeguards standard of the NPT. Japan once again calls on all States that have not yet concluded a comprehensive safeguards agreement, an AP, and where relevant, the modified Small Quantities Protocols (SQP), to do so as soon as possible. Japan will continuously strive to enhance its assistance to other States in this regard in close cooperation with the IAEA and other AP Friends in Vienna.

## **Export Controls**

Mr. Chair,

Export controls significantly contribute 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)**

Mr. Chair,

North Korea is intensifying its nuclear and missile activities and is flagrantly challenging the international non-proliferation order including the NPT. Japan is deeply concerned with the continuing serious threat North Korea poses to the NPT regime. This year, North Korea has already conducted 17 launches using ballistic missile technology, and four of them were ICBM-class ballistic missiles. There is also a possibility of another nuclear test by North Korea.

Given such circumstances, Japan believes that the Preparatory Committee should do the following to send a strong 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 the 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.

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

**Iran**

On Iran, Japan firmly supports the JCPOA and hopes for immediate return to full implementation of the JCPOA by all relevant parties. Japan expresses its strong concern over Iran's continued actions inconsistent with its commitments, including the unprecedented stockpiles of highly enriched uranium. Japan is also deeply concerned about the outstanding safeguards issues related to undeclared locations in Iran. Japan once again urges Iran to cooperate with the IAEA fully and unconditionally.

**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.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.