

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

**Cluster 2 Specific Issue 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,

Japan emphasizes the significant role of the NPT in promoting regional security. Effective implementation and universalization of the Treaty is vital for achieving our common goal of non-proliferation, which is essential for maintaining and strengthening regional stability. This objective, however, is gravely challenged.

**DPRK (North Korea)**

Chair,

I would like to begin by taking up the most serious challenge to the international non-proliferation regime posed by North Korea. Since the beginning of 2022, North Korea has launched about 80 ballistic missiles including 9 ICBMs. There is also a possibility of another nuclear test by North Korea.

These serious violations of relevant UNSC Resolutions by North Korea pose serious threat to the peace and security of the region and beyond, and therefore absolutely unacceptable. We believe that the States Parties to the NPT should send a clear and unified message to North Korea and that message should include following points;

-First of all, we reiterate the international community's grave concern over North Korea's continued development of its unlawful nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. We condemn in the strongest terms North Korea's recent series of ballistic missile launches and the six nuclear tests it has conducted since 2006.

-We strongly deplore North Korea's plutonium production and uranium enrichment activities and urge it to renounce its policy of building its nuclear forces and to immediately cease all ongoing nuclear activities. We express serious concern over North Korea's avowed willingness to further strengthen its nuclear forces and pursue tactical nuclear weapons.

-We strongly urge North Korea to immediately cease its escalatory behavior. We 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. We reiterate that North Korea cannot and will never have the status of a nuclear-weapon State in accordance with the NPT. We strongly urge North Korea to return at an early date to full compliance with the NPT and IAEA safeguards.

-We reaffirm our support for all diplomatic efforts to build peace on the Korean Peninsula and urge North Korea to return to dialogue. We call upon all members of the international community to fully implement all relevant UNSC resolutions.

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 the 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 further expanded stockpiles of highly enriched uranium, as well as the fact that the IAEA has not been able to perform verification and monitoring activities under the JCPOA. 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 continues to pay close attention to Syria's alleged nuclear cooperation with North Korea as repeatedly mentioned in the IAEA reports. Japan reiterates its call to Syria to cooperate fully with the IAEA to dispel the concerns of the international community.

## **Middle East**

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 past experience, it is imperative to pursue a common ground on this issue among all relevant parties.

## **South Asia**

Chair,

On South Asia, Japan once again urges India and Pakistan to accede to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon State promptly and without conditions, to maintain existing moratoriums on nuclear weapon test explosions and to sign and ratify the CTBT. In order to immediately commence negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty in the Conference on Disarmament, Japan urges both States to declare a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Japan also urges Pakistan to continue its efforts to further strengthen its export control system.

I thank you, Chair.