

(As delivered)

**Statement by Ambassador KAIFU Atsushi,
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**Cluster 2 Specific Issue of the Second 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. We continue to be seriously concerned about the advancement of North Korea's nuclear and missile activities. There is also a possibility of its further provocation including another nuclear test.

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

-First of all, we reiterate the international community's serious 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 launches using ballistic missile technology and the six nuclear tests it has conducted since 2006.

-Second, 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 acquiring tactical nuclear weapons.

-Third, 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.

-Fourth, 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

Chair,

On the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan reiterates its support for the non-proliferation objectives of the JCPOA. Japan remains deeply concerned that the IAEA's JCPOA-related verification and monitoring activities have been seriously affected by the cessation of Iran's implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA. Japan also expresses deep concern 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 hopes the IAEA Director General's visit to Damascus in March will lead to a constructive dialogue to clarify all outstanding issues. Japan reiterates its call to Syria to cooperate fully with the IAEA to dispel the concerns of the international community.

Middle East

Chair,

Japan recognizes the importance of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and 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 and in accordance with the 1999 guidelines of the UN Disarmament Commission. In this regard, it is imperative to pursue common ground on this issue among all relevant parties.

South Asia

Chair,

In concluding, 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, and to sign and ratify the CTBT. Further, in order to immediately commence negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, Japan urges their cooperation on this issue.

I thank you, Chair.