

**Statement by Ambassador KAIFU Atsushi,
Permanent Representative of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna
Cluster 2 Specific Issue of the Third 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.

Chair,

I would like to begin by taking up the most serious challenge to the international non-proliferation regime posed by North Korea. Japan is fully aligned with the joint statement delivered by France and will address our statement based on our national capacity. We continue to be seriously concerned about the advancement of North Korea's nuclear and missile activities.

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 united 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. In January, North Korea publicly revealed images of President Kim Jong Un's visit at the nuclear related facility, thereby demonstrating its posture to continue expanding nuclear and missile activities.

-Third, we strongly urge North Korea to immediately cease its escalatory behavior. We reaffirm our strong commitment to the goal of achieving CVID 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 fully comply with the NPT and IAEA safeguards.

-Fourth, a robust response of the entire international community, including the full implementation of all relevant UNSC resolutions is critical against activities that undermine the international non-proliferation regime which we all value. We reaffirm our support for all diplomatic efforts to build peace on the Korean Peninsula and urge North Korea to return to dialogue.

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

Chair,

On the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan remains seriously concerned about significant increase in stockpiles of highly enriched uranium and its outstanding safeguards issues. We hope that Iran's nuclear issue will be resolved in a peaceful manner through constructive discussions among relevant Parties and once again urge Iran to fully cooperate with the IAEA. Japan, based on longstanding friendly relationship with Iran, continues to contribute to the advancement of the discussions.

With regard to Syria's NPT safeguards noncompliance, Japan continues to emphasize the need to achieve substantial progress towards resolving all outstanding issues. In this regard, we commend the efforts of the IAEA and call to Syrian "Care-Taker Government" to fully cooperate with the IAEA to dispel the concerns of the international community.

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 among the States of the region concerned 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.

Japan has urged Israel to accede to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon State promptly and without conditions.

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 without further delay. Japan also urges their cooperation towards the immediate commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty.

I thank you, Chair.