

**Statement by Ambassador KITANO Mitsuru,  
Ambassador, Special Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Subsidiary Body 2 on Regional Issues  
for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties  
to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

Thank you, Vice-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.

**North Korea**

Vice-Chair,

I would like to begin by taking up the most serious challenge to the international non-proliferation regime which is posed by North Korea. We continue to be seriously concerned about the advancement of North Korea's nuclear and missile development.

We underlined the following four points at the Main Committee 2;

1) reaffirming our unwavering commitment to the goal of CVID of North Korea's nuclear weapons, any other existing weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges as well as its related programs and facilities, 2) urging North Korea to return to full compliance with the Treaty and IAEA safeguards, as well as fully comply with the international obligations under UN Security Council resolutions, 3) calling upon all states to uphold non-proliferation regime and fully implement all relevant Security Council resolutions, and 4) reaffirming that North Korea cannot have the status of a nuclear-weapon State in accordance with the Treaty.

Building upon these four points, we would like to reiterate the international community's serious concern over North Korea's continued development of its unlawful nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. In particular, 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 development.

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

## **Iran**

Vice-Chair,

The peace and stability of the Middle East and maintaining the international nuclear non-proliferation regime are of utmost importance to Japan. Japan reiterates its serious concern over the accumulated highly enriched uranium in Iran for which the verification is long overdue and its unresolved safeguards issues. Full cooperation with the IAEA is necessary to resolve these proliferation concerns. Japan will continue to make all necessary diplomatic efforts, in coordination with the international community and once again urges Iran to fully cooperate with the IAEA.

## **Syria**

With regard to Syria, Japan commends the efforts of the IAEA and welcomes positive engagement by Syrian government. We continue to encourage it to cooperate with the IAEA with full transparency to resolve all outstanding issues left by the previous regime, which cannot be left unaddressed.

## **Middle East**

Vice-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 as well as 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. Additionally, in order to achieve the universality of the NPT in the region, Japan urges Israel to accede to the Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State promptly and without conditions.

## **South Asia**

Vice-Chair,

On South Asia, Japan once again urges India and Pakistan to accede to the NPT as non-nuclear-weapon States 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.

Thank you, Vice-Chair.