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Chapter 1. Efforts at the United Nations

Section 1. Discussion at the United Nations

Since its foundation in 1945, the United Nations has been constantly active in dealing with disarmament issues in accordance with Article 11 of the Charter of the United Nations (stipulating that the UN General Assembly may consider disarmament and make recommendations to the Members and/or to the Security Council).

During the Cold War period, although three UN General Assembly special sessions on disarmament were held at the initiative of the Non - Aligned Movement states in 1978, 1982, and 1988, the specific achievements in the field of disarmament and non - proliferation reached at through the United Nations had been limited as a whole, and major agreements on disarmament had rather been formed through a bilateral or regional framework.

On the other hand, the United Nations has been basically contributing to disarmament in the form of deliberations and adoption of resolutions at the General Assembly. The interests and opinions of the international community on disarmament and non - proliferation under the international situation and security environment of the time have been reflected in those deliberations and resolutions, which have played a major role in shaping international public opinion on these issues in the medium and long terms.

After the end of the Cold War, specific results in terms of disarmament and non - proliferation have been achieved through the UN General Assembly, such as the establishment of the UN Register of Conventional Arms (1991), adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear - Test - Ban Treaty (CTBT) at the UN General Assembly (1996), adoption of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (2001), and adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005). In addition, as the September 11 terrorist attacks in 2001 heightened concerns over proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non - State actors such as terrorists, the UN Security Council also adopted Resolution 1540 on non - proliferation in April 2004. Since 2006, the UN Security Council also adopted a series of resolutions with sanctions regarding regional issues concerning North Korea and Iran among others. The United Nations has thus quickly come to play an increasing role in strengthening international non - proliferation regime.

The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs of the UN Secretariat supported such UN activities. The post of Under - Secretary - General for Disarmament Affairs was taken by Mr. Yasushi Akashi from 1987 to 1992, by Mr. Nobuyasu Abe, present Ambassador of Japan to Switzerland from May 2003 to January 2006, and by Mr. Nobuaki Tanaka, present Ambassador of Japan to Turkey from April 2006 to February 2007. However, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution in February 2007, to place disarmament affairs directly under the UN Secretary - General with a High Representative at the rank of Under - Secretary - General instead of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, which took effect in April. At present, Mr. Sergio de Queiroz Duarte, former Brazilian diplomat, serves as the High Representative to oversee five branches - Conference on Disarmament Secretariat and Conference Support Branch, Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch, Conventional Arms Branch, Regional Disarmament Branch, and Information and Outreach Branch.

Section 2. The United Nations General Assembly (First Committee)

Issues related to disarmament and non - proliferation have been taken up mainly by the "First Committee," which deals with all of the themes concerning disarmament and international security, within the UN General Assembly in which all member states are entitled to participate. In addition, there is also the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC), where specific items are discussed at each session outside the framework of the General Assembly.

1. First Committee of the General Assembly

Initially, disarmament issues had been discussed along with political, security, and technological issues at the First Committee of the General Assembly. Later, a decision was made at the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1978 that "the First Committee of the General Assembly should deal in the future only with questions of disarmament and related international security questions." Since then, issues mainly related to disarmament and international security have been discussed at the First Committee. This committee is held for a period of about five weeks after the general debate of the UN General Assembly every autumn.

Every year, the First Committee adopts many resolutions related to disarmament, thereby playing a role in increasing international momentum and showing the future direction. In addition, it is crucial to observe events occurring at the First Committee so as to foresee the direction of international movements concerning disarmament and non - proliferation. Japan also submits draft resolutions on important issues in this field every year.

Specifically, each year from 1994 to 1999, Japan had submitted draft resolutions on "Nuclear disarmament with a view to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons." In 2000 and thereafter, Japan had submitted a draft resolution entitled "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons." This presents concrete steps to the total elimination of nuclear weapons based on the outcome of the 2000 NPT Review Conference. Since 2005, Japan has newly submitted draft resolutions titled, "Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons," responding to the disagreements of the NPT Review Conference in May and the lack of reference to disarmament and non - proliferation in the UN World Summit Outcome Document in September 2005. In 2007, the draft resolution also gained overwhelming support from the international community (adopted by the support of 170 countries at the UN General Assembly plenary meeting).

Japan has also submitted draft resolutions on small arms and light weapons almost every year since 1995 when the issues of small arms and light weapons were fully brought to attention in the international community. In the draft resolution in 2007, Japan advocated the implementation of recommendations presented in a report by the Group of Governmental Experts to Consider Further Steps to Enhance International Cooperation in Preventing, Combating and Eradicating the Illicit Brokering in Small Arms and Light Weapons. This draft resolution containing the proposal to decide on holding the next biennial meeting in July 2008 that Japan submitted jointly with South Africa and Columbia was adopted by an overwhelming majority.

2. The United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC)

The United Nations initially established two commissions, the "Atomic Energy Commission" and the "Conventional Disarmament Commission," to conduct research and make recommendations

on disarmament. These were later integrated to form the "United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC)" at the 6th UN General Assembly in 1952 as a new forum to negotiate disarmament issues. The activities of this commission had remained virtually dormant for a long time without making any tangible achievements in the field of disarmament. It was decided at the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1978 to reorganize and reestablish it as the present UN Disarmament Commission, which is a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly with the participation of all member states of the UN.

The UNDC has held a three to four week session in New York in the period from April to May every year since 1979, and it normally deals with the same agenda items for three years in succession. The agenda items dealt with for three years from 1997 to 1999 were "Nuclear weapons - free zone," "the 4th Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament," and "Practical disarmament."

Two new agenda items, "Ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament" and "Practical confidence - building measures in the field of conventional arms," had been dealt with from 2000 to 2003. However, no agreement was reached among participating countries, and no working paper was thus adopted (the UNDC was exceptionally not convened in 2002). Although discussions over new agenda items had been planned from 2004, sessions in both 2004 and 2005 ended without reaching any agreement on new agenda items.

Since 2006, active discussions have been held on agenda items "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non - proliferation of nuclear weapons," "Practical confidence - building measures in the field of conventional weapons," and "Measures for improving the effectiveness of methods of the Commission" with a view to compiling a final document by the end of the 2008 session.

Section 3. The United Nations Security Council

The issues of disarmament and non - proliferation have been taken up at the UN Security Council, which is an organization primarily responsible for international peace and security.

UN Security Council Resolution 255, relating to "positive security assurances" (to assure that positive assistance shall be provided to non - nuclear - weapon states which have suffered from the use of nuclear weapons or are under the threat of nuclear weapons), was adopted in 1968, the year of adoption of the NPT. In addition, Security Council Resolution 984, relating to "negative security assurances" (to assure non - nuclear weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons), was adopted in 1995, which had been continuously raised by non - nuclear - weapon states since the start of the process of NPT negotiations. In January 1992, a Presidential Statement by the Security Council was issued, which reaffirmed the critical role of the progress of disarmament, arms control and non - proliferation in the maintenance of international peace and security and regarded the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as constituting a threat to international peace and security.

In April 2004, the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1540 on non - proliferation. This was the first Security Council Resolution under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations which stipulates that proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery poses a threat to international peace and security. The main content of the resolution is as follows: the resolution (1) decides that all States shall refrain from providing any form of support to non - State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport etc. or use weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, (2) decides that all States shall adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws which

prohibit any non - State actor to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport etc. or use weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes, as well as attempts to engage in any of the foregoing activities, participate in them as an accomplice, assist or finance them, and (3) decides that all States shall take effective measures to establish domestic controls over related materials and equipment to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and decides that all States shall develop and maintain physical protection measures, border controls, law enforcement measures, and strict export control. Based on this resolution, a committee (commonly known as the 1540 Committee) was set up under the Security Council for a period of no longer than two years, and all UN member states were required to present a report on the implementation of this resolution. In addition, all member states were called for to provide appropriate support at the request of states lacking the legal and regulatory infrastructure necessary to implement the provisions of the resolution within their own territory. The mandate of the 1540 committee was extended another two years by Security Council Resolution 1673 adopted in April 2006.

Japan submitted to the 1540 Committee a report on the measures Japan had taken to implement the resolution based on Security Council Resolution 1540, and also called for other states to fully implement the resolution and expressed its readiness to provide necessary assistance for that purpose.

In addition to the above - mentioned resolutions and chairman's statements on security, disarmament and non - proliferation in general, the Security Council has also issued resolutions and chairman's statements on individual regional issues (See "Part II: Regional Non - proliferation Issues and Japan's Efforts"). Since 2006, a series of resolutions concerning North Korean and Iranian nuclear and missile issues have been adopted. This is particularly significant progress made in the field of non - proliferation on the part of the UN Security Council. Japan has earnestly implemented all of these resolutions.

In response to the ballistic missile launches by North Korea in July 2006, the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1695, which condemned North Korea's ballistic missile launches and required North Korea and member states to implement specific measures. The resolution demanded North Korea to suspend all activities related to its ballistic missile programme, re - establish its pre - existing commitments to a moratorium on missile launching and return immediately to the Six - Party Talks, and also requires all member states to conduct strict export control and measures to prevent financial transactions of concern.

In response to the North Korean announcement of a nuclear test in October 2006, the UN Security Council, whose chairmanship Japan assumed, unanimously adopted Resolution 1718. The Resolution obliged North Korea to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes and all other existing weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programmes. The Resolution also obliged all member states to prevent the supply of specific items related to the military or related to nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction or missiles, ban exports of luxury goods to North Korea, prohibit the entry of designated persons from North Korea and freeze North Korean assets.

With regard to Iran, which had ignored repeated call from the international community and had continued its uranium enrichment - related activities, the UN Security Council adopted the presidential statement in March 2006 requesting Iran to implement the IAEA Board of Governors' requirements on its nuclear issues, and also adopted Resolution 1696 in July 2006 obliging Iran to suspend all uranium enrichment - related and reprocessing activities. In spite of the adoption of this Resolution, Iran continued its enrichment - related activities. Therefore, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted the following Resolutions which include sanctions on Iran.

Security Council Resolution 1737 adopted in December 2006 obliged Iran to suspend all uranium enrichment - related and reprocessing activities and heavy water - related projects again, and all member states to take measures, such as to prevent the transfer of nuclear and missile - related materials and technologies and related financial transactions to Iran, prohibit the procurement of nuclear and missile - related items from Iran, freeze assets of entities and individuals related to Iranian nuclear and other activities, exercise vigilance and notify the Committee regarding the entry into or transit through their territories of designated persons, and exercise vigilance and prevent specialized teaching or training in the related fields.

Security Council Resolution 1747 adopted in March 2007 further increased entities and persons subject to the measures including freezing assets, and also requested member states to prohibit the procurement of arms from Iran, exercise vigilance and restraint on exports of large arms to Iran, and suspend new grants and loans to Iran (except for humanitarian and developmental purposes).

Section 4. The United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

The United Nations Secretary - General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters is an advisory board of the UN Secretary - General that directly advises the Secretary - General on general disarmament issues. For example, the United Nations upgraded the Center for Disarmament Affairs, which was a sub - bureau of the Department of Political Affairs, to an independent department called the Department for Disarmament Affairs in 1998, as part of the reform of its organization. This was based on the recommendation of this Advisory Board. The Advisory Board also functions as the board of directors to supervise the management of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in Geneva.

This Advisory Board has its origin in the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies consisting of 30 eminent persons to advise the Secretary - General, which was established based on a proposal presented by UN Secretary - General Waldheim (then) at the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1978. The Advisory Board of the time completed its mandate in 1981 after holding seven meetings. The Board was re - established in 1982 based on the resolution of the 37th General Assembly (37/99K) and exists up to the present (its name was changed to the current name in 1989).

This Advisory Board meets biannually in New York and Geneva. About 20 members of the Board are selected by the Secretary - General on the basis of individual knowledge and experience and on the principle of balanced regional representation. The Board members are appointed in their private capacity. From Japan, Mr. Mitsuro Donowaki, former Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, served as a member of the Advisory Board from 1992 to 1998, and Mr. Yoshitomo Tanaka, Special Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (then) (former Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament) from 1999 to 2002. Ambassador Kuniko Inoguchi, Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament (then), served as a member of the Board since 2003. At the 48th Session of the Secretary - General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters held in July 2007, the disarmament department came to be placed directly under the Secretary - General and discussions were held, with the participation of the Secretary - General, on two themes - Review of ways to advance the disarmament agenda and Emerging weapons technologies, including outer space aspects.

Section 5. The United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues

The United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues has been held twice a year (once a year in Japan) since 1989 to provide a platform for dialogue on disarmament and security matters and thereby promote awareness of disarmament issues among the states in the Asia and Pacific Region, including countries that do not have diplomatic relations with each other. This is sponsored by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (initially by the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia) established in 1988. High - level government officials and experts on disarmament affairs from various countries participate in this conference in their private capacity and discuss a variety of topics each time. This is different from the UN General Assembly or the Conference on Disarmament where the government delegations of the member states negotiate treaties, adopt resolutions, or make appeals.

The Conference on Disarmament Issues has been held in different cities in Japan with the support of the Japanese Government every year since 1989, based on a proposal made by then Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita at the 3rd Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1988 that the Japanese Government was ready to convene a UN disarmament conference in Japan. The conference not only presents a good opportunity to put forward the positive position of Japan on disarmament issues both domestically and externally, but also holding meetings such as this in various cities across the country is expected to contribute to raising public awareness on disarmament issues and in turn responding to such public awareness. The conference was held in Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Kyoto, Sendai, Sapporo, Akita, Kanazawa, and Osaka. In 2007, it was held in Sapporo from August 27 to 29. A Government's representative attends the conference every year to deliver an opening speech.



The 19th United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in Sapporo (August 2007)

Chapter 2. The Conference on Disarmament (CD)

1. Background of its establishment

While disarmament efforts led by the United Nations had hardly made any tangible progress in the Cold War era, the "Ten - Nation Committee on Disarmament" was established in Geneva in September 1959 by a joint communique of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and the USSR, as a forum for negotiations on disarmament outside the framework of the United Nations. Initially, five states each from the Eastern and Western blocs participated in this committee. Later, it evolved into the "Eighteen - Nation Committee on Disarmament" (1962 - 1969) by adding eight non - aligned countries, and later into the "Conference of the Committee on Disarmament" (1969 - 1978, with 31 member states at its peak). Finally, the "Committee on Disarmament" (with 40 member states) was established by a resolution of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1978. Its name was changed in 1984 to become the current Conference on Disarmament (CD).

2. Activities and achievement to date

The present membership of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) consists of 65 states classified into three groups: (1) the Western group including G7 states (25 states), (2) the Eastern group centering on Russia (6 states), and (3) the G21 consisting of developing countries, etc. (33 states), and China, which does not belong to any of these three groups. Japan has been a member of the CD since 1969 and belongs to the Western group. The Secretariat of the Conference is located at the UN Office in Geneva. A 2 - 3 month session is held three times a year. At the CD, all decisions including procedural matters are adopted by consensus.

The CD is the single international forum where multilateral "negotiations" on disarmament are conducted, and it has a different character in this point from the UN Disarmament Commission, which is a forum to "discuss" disarmament issues under the UN General Assembly.

A number of important treaties and conventions on disarmament and non - proliferation have been discussed and drafted by the CD and its predecessors, for example, the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT, adopted in 1963), the Treaty on the Non - Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT, adopted in 1968), the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC, adopted in 1971), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC, adopted in 1992), and the Comprehensive Nuclear - Test - Ban Treaty (CTBT, adopted in 1996).

Chapter 3. Efforts at the G8

The issues of disarmament and non - proliferation have recently been given greater importance at the G8 Summits where the leaders of the leading developed countries hold discussions with a view to taking specific actions in unison to deal with most important issues facing the international community.

Due to the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, especially the connection between weapons of mass destruction and terrorism, has come to be recognized as the greatest threat to the international community. Reflecting such recognition, independent documents related to non - proliferation have been adopted at the G8 since the Kananaskis Summit in 2002. Specifically, documents related to "G8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction" ("Statement," "Guidelines" and "Principles") were adopted at the Kananaskis Summit (see Section 2, Chapter 8, Part II). The "Non Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction: A G8 Declaration" was adopted at the Evian Summit in 2003, the "G8 Action Plan on Non - Proliferation: A G8 Statement" at the Sea Island Summit in 2004, and the "Gleneagles Statement on Non - Proliferation: A G8 Statement" at the Gleneagles Summit in 2005. Furthermore, the "Statement on Non - Proliferation" and the "Heiligendamm Statement on Non - Proliferation" were adopted at the St. Petersburg Summit in 2006 and at the Heiligendamm Summit in 2007, respectively.

In addition to conventional approaches, i.e., universalization and enhancement of functions of the existing multilateral treaties concerning disarmament and non - proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including the NPT, the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and the Additional Protocols, as well as the BWC and the CWC, these Summit documents issued after the terrorist attacks in the United States place greater importance on attempts to ensure States Parties' compliance with the non - proliferation regime by emphasizing the UN Security Council's roles in addressing proliferation issues, and attempts to prevent weapons of mass destruction and related materials from falling into the hands of states of proliferation concern and terrorists (Security Council Resolution 1540, the PSI, restriction on the transfers of nuclear materials, equipment and technologies for enrichment and reprocessing, G8 Global Partnership, and countermeasures against nuclear terrorism), and thus indicated the ways in which the G8 have been trying to cope with new threats to the international community.

In particular, in the "G8 Action Plan on Non - Proliferation," adopted at the Sea Island Summit in 2004, G8 leaders comprehensively and specifically presented and agreed to implement tasks to be addressed and measures to be taken by the international community in relation to issues pertaining to weapons of mass destruction, including universal adherence to and compliance with treaties relating to disarmament and non - proliferation, support for establishment of a national implementation system and building of law enforcement capacity, complete implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 on non - proliferation, restriction on the transfers of nuclear materials, equipment and technologies for enrichment and reprocessing, universal adherence to the IAEA Additional Protocols, enhancement of the IAEA's functions, strengthening of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), response to regional nuclear issues in North Korea, Iran and other countries, continuation of activities by the G8 Global Partnership, defense against bioterrorism, measures to prevent proliferation of chemical weapons, and nuclear safety and security. It is noteworthy that the "Statement on Non - Proliferation" adopted at the St. Petersburg Summit in 2006 referred to peaceful uses of nuclear energy (proposals on nuclear fuel cycle (see Chapter 6, Part III)) in addition to these

measures.

The "Heiligendamm Statement on Non - Proliferation" adopted at the Heiligendamm Summit in 2007 reconfirmed the awareness that non - proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and countermeasures against terrorism are critical to international security, and reiterated the G8's commitments to take necessary measures in this regard. Specifically, the statement referred to the enhancement and universalization of disarmament/non - proliferation treaties, promotion of enhanced efforts for non - proliferation (including the PSI) by member states, requirements for member states' implementation of non - proliferation - related Security Council Resolutions (such as Security Council Resolution 1540), continued implementation of the G8 Global Partnership, universalization of the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and the Additional Protocols, and reconfirmation of their commitments to all three pillars of the NPT (nuclear disarmament, nuclear non - proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy), and expressed their intention to make efforts for the successful operation of the review process of the NPT. The statement also referred to restriction on transfers of enrichment/reprocessing - related materials, equipment and technologies, proposals on nuclear fuel cycle, the Iranian nuclear issue and the North Korean nuclear and missile issues, and requested non - participating states to join the "Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GI)" and sign and conclude related international treaties.

Furthermore, at G8 Summit meetings in recent years, responding to the "nuclear renaissance", peaceful uses of nuclear energy have come to be discussed not only in the context of non - proliferation but also in the context of energy security and countermeasures against climate change. These G8 Summit documents stipulate that the utilization of nuclear energy "must be based on a robust regime for assuring nuclear non - proliferation and a reliable safety and security system for nuclear materials and facilities" ("Global Energy Security" at the St. Petersburg Summit in 2006) and that "we remain committed to a robust regime for assuring nuclear non - proliferation as well as a reliable safety and security system for nuclear materials, radioactive wastes and nuclear facilities" ("Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy" at the Heiligendamm Summit in 2007).



Then Prime Minister Abe attending the G8 Heiligendamm Summit (July 2007)
(Source: The Press and Information Office of the Federal Government of Germany)

Chapter 4. Regional efforts

Section 1. Regional frameworks

1. Overview

As cases of illicit procurement activities of materials related to weapons of mass destruction in Asian countries have been reported, the development and enhancement of the non - proliferation regime is an urgent issue in this region. The increase in such cases has been brought about by the enhanced capacity to produce and supply materials that can be converted to weapons of mass destruction or used for the development thereof in the region. In spite of the increasing significance of the region as a transshipment point, certain governments do not fully recognize the importance of non - proliferation nor have they developed sufficient export control systems.

Under such circumstances, it has become even more important to incorporate Asian countries into the international non - proliferation regime and have inter - regional cooperation to address non - proliferation issues. Japan has taken initiative in promoting the reinforcement of regional efforts to cope with such proliferation issues by hosting various meeting including the Asian Export Control Seminar and Asian Senior - level Talks on Non - Proliferation (ASTOP) (see Section 2).

2. The Asian Export Control Seminar

In recognition of the aforementioned circumstances, the Center for Information on Security Trade Control (CISTEC) consigned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, has hosted the Asian Export Control Seminar since 1993, inviting officials in charge of non - proliferation and export control in Asian countries and regions. As cooperation among Asian countries and regions is indispensable for strengthening the regional export control systems and developing the non - proliferation regime, the Seminar aims to enhance common awareness of the significance of export control and strengthen the export control systems in the region.

In November 2007, the 15th session was held with participants from a total of 25 countries and regions, including those invited from seventeen Asian countries and regions and those from seven cooperating countries and regions such as the United States and the United Kingdom. During the session, active discussions were held on such matters as the recent trends of proliferation and export control of weapons of mass destruction, progress of export control policies in Asia, problems concerning the enforcement of export control systems, urgent issues concerning export control, effective export control systems, and international cooperation.

Section 2. Asian Senior-level Talks on Non-Proliferation (ASTOP)

Japan has convened the Asian Senior - level Talks on Non - Proliferation (ASTOP) since 2003, inviting Director - General - level officials in charge of non - proliferation policy from all ASEAN members, China, and the Republic of Korea, as well as the United States and Australia, both of which have common interests in the security of Asia. ASTOP has been held with a view to strengthening efforts for non - proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missile - related materials and increasing the awareness of non - proliferation in Asia, as well as introducing, to Asian countries, "the Proliferation

Security Initiative (PSI: see Chapter 3, Part VI)" launched in May 2003 and discussing the modalities of cooperation for the PSI.

ASTOP has been held every year since 2003, and the fourth meeting was held on January 25 and 26, 2007. With recognition that the enhancement of the non - proliferation regime has become even more significant and urgent, discussions were held on (1) the IAEA Additional Protocols, (2) Security Council Resolution 1540, (3) regional non - proliferation issues and Security Council Resolutions (North Korea and Iran), (4) Assurances of Nuclear Fuel Supply, (5) nuclear security, and (6) the PSI. Canada and New Zealand also attended the fourth meeting.

As a result of these efforts, it was confirmed that each country had made steady efforts in the non - proliferation field, especially those aimed at concluding the IAEA Additional Protocols and in the field of the PSI. In addition, sharing the experience concerning the development of national systems and implementation of related Security Council Resolutions with other participating countries increased understanding in relevant fields and produced an effect of promoting active efforts in the future. Moreover, the details of support and cooperation necessary for Asian countries to implement non - proliferation measures within the respective countries were made clear, and thereby a specific direction toward cooperation in the future was clearly indicated.



ASTOP IV (January 25, 2007)
Participants listening to the keynote speech by Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Asano (then) at the opening session