

**Statement by Mr. INOUE Shinji,
Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy, Japan
Japan at the 65th IAEA General Conference
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Mr. President,
Director General,
Distinguished guests,

As the world has been continuously facing unprecedented challenge due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Agency has been enhancing Member State's virus detection capability as well as building their capacity to combat animal-derived infectious diseases with a view to countering infectious diseases globally in a post-coronavirus world. I would like to express our highest respect to the Director General for his strong leadership in responding swiftly to important challenges in the international community.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Japan has contributed a total of 11 million euros to the Agency to strongly support its countermeasures against infectious diseases including through the ZODIAC initiative.

Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (Japan's support to the IAEA)

The peaceful uses of nuclear energy are an important pillar that contributes to the global socio-economic growth and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Japan has strongly supported the promotion of peaceful uses through the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI). Japan has been working closely with the Agency in various important areas, including the NUTEC Plastics project to address the issue of marine plastics waste and to the ReNuAL 2 project to strengthen the nuclear applications laboratories in Seibersdorf, and contributed one million euro to each project. In addition, Japan supports the Agency's technical cooperation activities, including those

under the Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia and the Pacific (RCA), which will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year.

Gender Parity

Gender parity expands the horizon in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and non-proliferation. In order to encourage female scientists' advancement in the nuclear field, Japan has been cooperating with the Marie Sklodowska Curie Fellowship Programme since its launch, and will continue to support for it in the future.

Decommissioning of TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station and Handling of ALPS Treated Water

In March this year, Japan marked the tenth anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake. This coming November, an expert meeting will be held by the Agency with an aim to further enhance nuclear safety.

The decommissioning of TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station is making progress under the principles of achieving both "Reconstruction and Decommissioning", and the IAEA's reviews have been conducted throughout the entire process.

In April, the Government of Japan announced the Basic Policy regarding the discharge of the ALPS treated water into the sea, which will take place in approximately two years, while firmly ensuring safety. The IAEA's review report positively evaluated the Basic Policy, concluding that "it will facilitate the implementation of the whole decommissioning plan".

Japan has attached great importance to cooperation with the Agency. Japan and the Agency signed a Terms of Reference on the handling of the ALPS treated water in July, and Mr. Kajiyama, Minister of Economy, Trade and

Industry, requested the cooperation of Director General Grossi in this regard at their meeting in Vienna in August. Subsequently, Ms. Evrard, Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, visited Japan to discuss cooperation regarding the handling of the ALPS treated water earlier this month. Reviews on the safety and regulatory aspects of the handling of the ALPS treated water discharge, and marine monitoring will be conducted by the Agency.

Japan will continue to explain the situation of TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station to the international community in a transparent manner based on scientific evidence, and continue to cooperate with the Agency in the implementation of the reviews.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation

The IAEA safeguards are the fundamental instrument for ensuring nuclear non-proliferation, and Japan strongly supports the Agency's work in making them more effective and efficient. Japan welcomes the Agency's efforts to continue its safeguards activities despite the difficult situation of the COVID-19 pandemic. The role of the Agency is critically important in addressing key problems that the international non-proliferation regime faces.

North Korea's Nuclear Issue

Japan has been closely paying attention to North Korea's nuclear development with grave interest, including issues pointed out last month by the IAEA Director General's Report about the Application of Safeguards in North Korea. In addition, Japan lodged a strong protest against North Korea over the last week's launches of ballistic missiles, which are in clear violation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs). North Korea's recent nuclear and missile activities pose a threat to peace and security of Japan, the region and the international community.

The international community needs to come together towards the complete denuclearization of North Korea. In this regard, Japan supports the resumption of the dialogue between the US and North Korea and strongly hopes that the concrete actions will advance towards the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement (CVID) of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges by North Korea, which is a common goal that we all share under the relevant UNSCRs. Japan emphasizes the critical importance for all States to fully implement relevant UNSCRs.

Verification is indispensable in achieving the denuclearization of North Korea. Japan considers the utilization of the Agency's expertise, knowledge and experience to be of utmost importance. Japan highly appreciates the Secretariat's work to enhance the Agency's ability and readiness to verify North Korea's nuclear programme.

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action

Japan supports the series of continued constructive dialogue on the JCPOA among relevant countries, and expects progress in the dialogue under the new Iranian administration towards the immediate return to its compliance with the JCPOA. The JCPOA contributes to strengthening the international non-proliferation regime and thereby to the stability of the Middle East.

Japan acknowledges the Joint Statement between Iran and the Agency on 12 September and believes that what is stated there, including high level talks to enhance cooperation and discuss current issues, should be duly implemented. Japan strongly urges Iran to refrain from provocative measures that undermine the agreement. Last month, Japan urged high ranking officials of the newly inaugurated Iranian government to take constructive measures toward the immediate return to compliance with the JCPOA.

Japan is concerned that technical discussions between the Agency and Iran have not yielded the expected results and of the consequent lack of progress in clarifying the safeguards issues. Japan urges Iran to fully cooperate with the Agency and to clarify and resolve the outstanding issues without further delay.

NPT Review Conference

With regard to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which is the cornerstone of the international regime for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the 10th Review Conference is scheduled to take place. Japan emphasizes the important role of the Agency in non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Japan will spare no effort to achieve a successful outcome, which will lead to maintaining and strengthening the NPT regime and expects the Agency to play an even more important role to this end.

Strengthening the Nuclear Non-proliferation Regime

Japan is committed to stringent domestic safeguards and in particular attaches importance to the universalization of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and its Additional Protocols from the viewpoint of strengthening the current international non-proliferation regime. We will continue to promote the universalization of Additional Protocols as well as to improve effectiveness and efficiency of safeguards through various activities, such as the Joint Demarche by the AP Friends earlier this year. We call on the international community to continue making further efforts in this regard.

Furthermore, Japan has been supporting the renewal project of LG-SIMS (Large Geometry Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry) at the Safeguards' Environmental Sample Analysis Laboratory at Seibersdorf, which helps to play a role in strengthening the IAEA safeguards regime.

Nuclear Safety

Japan places great importance on close cooperation with the international community in the field of nuclear safety.

Japan has been participating in the IAEA Safety Standards Committees by sending members, and will continue to work to improve nuclear regulations by sharing experiences and knowledge concerning nuclear and radiation safety in Japan. Japan will also contribute to enhancing nuclear safety through the review process of the 8th and 9th joint review meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the 7th review meeting of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

Japan has been supporting the activities of the IAEA Response and Assistance Network (RANET) Capacity Building Centre (CBC) in Fukushima and contributing to enhancing nuclear safety worldwide, building on the experience and lessons learned from the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. Japan also continues to assist the development of infrastructure and human resources in countries introducing nuclear power plants.

Nuclear Security

Japan will continue to contribute to strengthening international nuclear security, in cooperation with the Agency despite the COVID-19 pandemic, through activities for regional human resource development, including virtual trainings by the Japan Atomic Energy Agency's Integrated Support Center for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Nuclear Security (ISCN). In this regard, I am pleased to note that the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) will be designated as an IAEA Collaborating Centre in the fields of nuclear security and of decommissioning and radioactive waste management soon

and contribute to the Agency and Member States in both areas.

As a single nation cannot ensure global nuclear security, Japan stresses the important role of legal frameworks such as the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT). Japan continues to make efforts to promote the universalization of these conventions, including through contributions to the 2022 CPPNM Review Conference.

Japan's Nuclear Energy Policy

Considering the lessons learned from TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station Accident, Japan places top priority on safety, when utilizing nuclear energy.

Based on this policy, ten nuclear reactors have been restarted to date after the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. Looking toward 2030, Japan continues to proceed with the restart of nuclear power plants while giving top priority to safety, in order to achieve a nuclear power ratio of 20% to 22%, as shown in the previous energy mix.

Last year, the Government of Japan declared that it will aim for carbon neutrality by 2050, and launched the "Green Growth Strategy" last June. Regarding the nuclear industry, fast reactor, SMR, HTGR and fusion reactor are highlighted in the strategy.

Research and Development

Japan will steadily advance research and development on fast reactors based on the Strategic Roadmap, in cooperation with France and the United States. As for small module reactors, in cooperation with overseas demonstration projects aiming to start operation at the end of the 2020s, Japanese

companies are making efforts to participate in these projects with high design and manufacturing capabilities. With regard to high temperature gas-cooled reactors, our test reactor HTTR has been re-operated since July this year. These activities are expected to contribute to decarbonization.

As fusion energy is recognized as a symbol of international cooperation, Japan emphasizes the importance of fusion research and development including the ITER Project and the Broader Approach activities as well as a variety of academic research. The assembly of ITER has been making steady progress since the work started in July 2020.

Plutonium Management

Japan will maintain adherence to the principle of not possessing plutonium without specific purposes. Based on this principle, Japan announced a policy of reducing the amount of its plutonium stockpile.

As the Agency has concluded that all nuclear material in Japan, including plutonium, remained in peaceful activities under stringent IAEA safeguards, there are no issues in relation to non-proliferation.

Japan is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities in nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. To this end, Japan will steadily carry out plutonium thermal power generation, increase transparency in the use and management of its plutonium, and accept stringent IAEA safeguards.

Final Disposal of Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning

Japan will strengthen international collaboration concerning final disposal of radioactive waste, which is a common issue for all countries using nuclear energy.

Considering the discussion among major countries using nuclear energy and the Agency at the international roundtables for final disposal of radioactive waste, we will continue to further promote international cooperation including workshops on research cooperation and following up on each country's progress.

In April this year, Japan received the IAEA's review of the decommissioning of JAEA's nuclear facilities (ARTEMIS mission). Through the intensive discussion with experts, Japan received comprehensive and professional recommendations and suggestions on how to improve decommissioning in the future.

Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage

In parallel with promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the establishment of an international compensation framework for nuclear damage is an important issue. Japan hopes to see an early conclusion of the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC) by non-signatory countries.

Conclusion

In closing, on behalf of my government, I would like to reiterate Japan's firm determination to continue to provide its maximum support for the Agency, including the effective use of extrabudgetary contributions such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Fund and the Peaceful Uses Initiative, as well as human source contribution, and to further promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Thank you for your kind attention.