

Statement by Japan at the 63rd IAEA General Conference
Minister of State Naokazu TAKEMOTO
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Madam President,
Mr. Acting Director General,
Distinguished guests,

Please allow me to congratulate you, Ambassador Alicia BUENROSTRO MASSIEU, on your election as the President of the 63rd IAEA General Conference.

I would like to begin by offering our sincerest condolences on the passing of Director General Amano. Late Director General Amano actively worked not only on international nuclear non-proliferation challenges including the nuclear issues of North Korea and Iran, but also on development challenges advocating "Atoms for Peace and Development".

Japan highly values Mr. Amano's past achievements and sincerely hopes that Mr. Amano's policy course will be maintained for generations.

From this perspective, Japan has decided to allocate 1 million euros to help in the completion of the renovation project of the IAEA nuclear applications laboratories in Seibersdorf as a symbol of "Atoms for Peace and Development".

This contribution alleviates a large part of the financial shortfall of the 2.6

million euros required to complete the ReNuAL project that Mr. Amano called for at his last attendance of the IAEA Board of Governors in June. Japan hopes that the remaining funds needed will be available as soon as possible through support from other Member States sharing the same spirit. In addition, Japan is also ready to contribute to international efforts by strengthening human resource development specializing in disarmament and non-proliferation fields.

In light of late Director General Amano's distinguished achievements, the resolution was adopted to honour Mr. Amano's role in the IAEA and to rename one of the Seibersdorf Laboratories as "The Yukiya Amano Laboratories". Japan wants to express its deepest gratitude and welcomes the initiative.

Through these initiatives, Japan sincerely hopes that Mr. Amano's vision and accomplishments will be passed down for generations and that international peace and stability will continue to be promoted.

I would now like to touch upon some of the most pressing issues facing the international non-proliferation regime today.

North Korea's Nuclear Issue

The first topic is North Korea's nuclear issue. Japan reaffirms its strong commitment to working with the international community in achieving complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all of North Korea's nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, ballistic missiles of all ranges as well as related programs and facilities in accordance with

relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs). The international community needs to come together to support the U.S.-North Korea process.

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.

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action

The second topic of importance is the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Japan continues to support the JCPOA from the viewpoint of strengthening the international non-proliferation regime, and securing stability in the Middle East region. In this regard, Japan is deeply concerned about the measures taken by Iran to exceed the limits set by the JCPOA.

Japan strongly urges Iran to implement the JCPOA, return to its commitments, and also refrain from taking any additional measures that could undermine the JCPOA.

The IAEA has an important role in monitoring and verifying the implementation of the JCPOA. Japan will stand by the IAEA to support its efforts to conduct verification and monitoring with neutrality and professionalism, as was advocated by Mr. Amano.

Madam President,

2020 NPT Review Conference

The 2020 NPT Review Conference is an important Conference to decide a guideline on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy that are all deeply related to the IAEA. Japan continues to make its utmost to achieve a successful outcome of the Review Conference.

Strengthening Nuclear Non-proliferation Regime

The IAEA Safeguards are the most important instrument to ensure nuclear non-proliferation, and Japan supports the IAEA's work in making them more effective and more efficient. Japan is committed to stringent domestic Safeguards.

In particular, Japan 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 the Safeguards through frameworks such as the Asia Senior-Level Talks on Non-Proliferation or ASTOP and the Asia Pacific Safeguards Network or APSN. We call on the international society to continue making further efforts in this regard.

Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

In recent years, the IAEA has especially focused on increased efforts on promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the motto “Atoms for Peace and Development.” This initiative contributes to the socio-economic development of the world and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

From that standpoint, Japan co-chaired the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology in last November. We believe it was truly meaningful that the Ministerial Declaration affirmed the IAEA’s efforts on promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology as an important role of the IAEA. As the co-chair, we were very proud of being able to contribute to the success of the conference.

Japan continues to support the IAEA technically and financially with its personnel through contributions to the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) and other cooperation projects with domestic universities, research institutes and companies.

Nuclear Safety

Japan will work on making further improvements in nuclear regulations based on the recommendations and suggestions of the Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) missions. Japan will receive an IRRS follow-up mission in January next year. Japan also submitted a national report concerning the 8th review conference of the Convention on Nuclear Safety to the IAEA Secretariat.

Building on the experience from the accident at the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, Japan also contributes to enhancing nuclear safety worldwide through support for the IAEA Response and Assistance Network (RANET) Capacity Building Centre in Fukushima. Japan is also assisting in the development of infrastructure and human resources in countries introducing nuclear power generation.

Strengthening Nuclear Security

Japan supports the central role of the IAEA in strengthening the international nuclear security framework and will make an effort for the success of the International Conference on Nuclear Security in 2020.

Japan received the IAEA's International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) follow-up mission last December. Our nuclear security regime was evaluated as robust and well-established.

This October, Japan will conduct a table top exercise, aiming at ensuring our nuclear security at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, in collaboration with the IAEA. We are taking all possible measures against terrorism, which includes nuclear terrorism, for major public events including the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Moreover, Japan will continue to help to advance nuclear security worldwide, in cooperation with the IAEA, through regional human resources development activities conducted by the Japan Atomic Energy Agency's Integrated Support Center for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Nuclear Security (ISCN).

Madam President,

Next I would like to address Japan's nuclear energy policy.

After the Accident of the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station

Looking ahead to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, we are working very hard to have all necessary arrangements for the Games so that athletes and visitors can enjoy a greater sense of security during their stay.

In the report of the 4th IAEA review mission on decommissioning the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, which was conducted last November, Japan received evaluations that transition from emergency to stabilized situation was completed and many improvements were made since the previous mission by the IAEA.

Following the advice of the mission, we will continue to take every possible measure to advance decommissioning of the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.

In addition, there is progress in the decommissioning and management of contaminated water. There has also been significant progress in environmental remediation activities such as completion of whole area decontamination in off-site areas other than the Difficult-to Return Zones. This has resulted in the lifting of evacuation orders and the subsequent return of residents.

The IAEA reviewed that the public safety is ensured since the monitoring

results for the surrounding sea region and off shore areas indicated no rise in radionuclide concentrations, and remain within the WHO guidelines for drinking water.

ALPS (Advanced Liquid Processing System) treated water, which is generated by the result of purification of contaminated water, does not contain most of radionuclides other than tritium and it is stored in tanks with double weirs on the premises. Handling of ALPS treated water has been continuously examined in a comprehensive manner

After the accident at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, Japan has been appropriately providing the relevant information to the international community in a transparent manner, including briefing sessions held in Tokyo a total of 103 times, and providing related information for all the Diplomatic Missions in Tokyo on a monthly basis, and we will continue such activities.

Although there are criticisms which are not based on facts and scientific evidences against our activities, Japan strongly hopes that all countries conduct discussions impartially and rationally based on the information provided by Japan and related IAEA reports in a courteous and transparent manner.

In addition, several countries and regions retain import regulations on Japanese foods without scientific evidences, which is a serious barrier in the Fukushima revitalization, including reputation damages. Japan calls on those countries to promptly lift the regulations based on scientific evidences.

Japan's Energy Policy

Japan gives top priority to safety and fully commits to restarting domestic nuclear reactors on the basic premise of the steady progress of reconstruction and revitalization in Fukushima.

After the accident at the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, nine nuclear reactors have been restarted to date. Based on the 5th Strategic Energy Plan, which was approved by the cabinet last year, Japan is working to achieve an optimal energy mix by 2030 by reducing its dependency on nuclear power as much as possible, while tackling with energy conservation thoroughly and expanding the introduction of renewable energy.

Looking ahead to 2050 from a longer-term perspective to reduce greenhouse gas by 80%, Japan has expressed its view that it is critically important to pursue every possible energy option, including renewable and nuclear energy, based on the Strategic Energy Plan and the Long-Term Strategy under the Paris Agreement which was approved by the cabinet this past June. Japan also seeks every option for decarbonization through promoting technical development for the pursuit of safe, economically efficient and flexible reactors. To this end, Japan will advance its policy to promote innovation of nuclear energy by taking advantage of Japanese companies' knowledge, originality and ingenuity.

Basic Principles on Japan's Utilization of Plutonium

Last year, the Japan Atomic Energy Commission revised for the first time in fifteen years, the Basic Principles on Japan's Utilization of Plutonium. We

have informed IAEA Member States through an Information Circular of this revision.

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 size of its plutonium stockpile.

The IAEA has concluded that all nuclear material in Japan, including plutonium, remained in peaceful activities under stringent IAEA Safeguards. Japan has no issues in relation to non-proliferation.

The Government of Japan is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities in nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. To this end, we 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 undertakes to strengthen international collaboration concerning final disposal of high-level radioactive waste, which is a common issue for all countries using nuclear energy.

At the G20 Karuizawa Ministerial Meeting in Japan this past June, major countries using nuclear energy agreed to hold an international roundtable for final disposal of high-level radioactive waste which is scheduled in October this year, with the participation of the IAEA.

Japan is also planning to receive a review mission called ARTEMIS on

decommissioning of JAEA's nuclear facilities next year.

Research and Development

Last December, Japan developed the Strategic Roadmap for fast reactor development at the ministerial meeting for nuclear energy, which will specify concrete research and development plans for the next decade. In addition, we would like to stress the importance of fusion research and development including the ITER Project and the Broader Approach Activities as well as research such as helical systems.

Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage

Japan supports active discussions among the member countries on the nuclear liability conventions including the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC). We would like to thank Canada for hosting the 1st CSC members and signatories meeting last June.

Conclusion

Madam President,

In closing, I would like to reiterate, on behalf of my government, Japan's firm determination to further promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and even to strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Thank you for your kind attention.