

Statement by Japan
at the IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security, February
10, 2020
State Minister for Foreign Affairs, WAKAMIYA Kenji

Co- Presidents,
Director General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to welcome the convening of the Third International Conference on Nuclear Security organized by the IAEA, and convey my sincere gratitude to Co-Presidents, His Excellency Mr. Alfaro, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama, and His Excellency Mr. Aurescu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania.

Co-Presidents,
Nuclear terrorism still remains one of the most challenging threats to international security. Potential threats such as the sabotage of nuclear facilities constantly exist.

With the expansion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy around the world in various fields such as power generation, medical treatment and agriculture, the number of nuclear related facilities requiring measures against nuclear terrorism has been substantially increasing. Furthermore, due to the evolution of technologies, nuclear security requires not only physical protection measures, but also other means to address diverse and emerging threats such as insider threats and cyber-attacks.

As a country that is deeply engaged in research and development of advanced nuclear technologies such as Small Modular Reactors, SMRs, Japan regards it an important challenge to further enhance nuclear security measures including those for cybersecurity at nuclear facilities by taking duly into consideration technological developments.

Under such circumstances, countries with nuclear facilities have greater responsibility, and as such, it is important to make further efforts to ensure the highest standards of security thereby realizing the responsible use of nuclear energy.

From this perspective, Japan continues to support Director General Grossi, who took office last December, and pledges to spare no effort to make best use of our experience and expertise so that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and domestic and international nuclear security will be further promoted under his able leadership.

So, how can we achieve and maintain the highest standards of nuclear security?

First of all, since the responsibility for nuclear security within a state rests entirely with that state, each country must make individual efforts to ensure its own nuclear security. Taking the IAEA's recommendations into consideration, the Government of Japan has enacted a domestic law which obligates operators dealing with nuclear and other radioactive materials to take necessary nuclear security measures. Under the new law, operators are required to take protection measures for radioactive sources. The Government of Japan has also taken additional measures including the amendment of related regulations to conduct personal

trustworthiness checks. Furthermore, the relevant regulations require operators to implement cybersecurity measures, such as the introduction of the latest technology to block malicious external access to nuclear facilities.

Second, it is important to have in place a mechanism which objectively evaluates each country's efforts. In this regard, the IAEA has played a crucial role in providing advisory service and improving related guidelines. In December 2018, Japan received a follow-up mission of the International Physical Protection Advisory Service of the IAEA. The evaluation by the mission is that the Japanese nuclear security regime is robust and well-established. To avoid complacency, Japan continues to further reinforce its domestic nuclear security measures.

Third, nuclear security cannot be fully attained with the efforts of a single country. International and regional cooperation are indispensable in this regard. Moreover, the role of international legal frameworks such as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment; and the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism is important. Japan continues to promote the universalization and implementation of these frameworks as well as contributes to the Review conference of the Amended Convention for the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material to be held in 2021.

Co-Presidents,

Let me introduce two examples of Japan's international and regional cooperation.

Japan took an initiative and coordinated the Joint Statement on Transport

Security of Nuclear Materials in the Nuclear Security Summit in 2016. In 2017, Japan, as a lead country, shared this statement as INFCIRC/909 with all IAEA member states. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all countries to subscribe the INFCIRC/909.

Last November, in collaboration with the United States, Japan hosted the International Transportation Security Symposium in Tokyo with over 100 participants from 36 countries and the IAEA. The outcomes of the Symposium will be presented at our side event this afternoon. I would like to welcome all of you to that event.

Our contribution in human resource development extends to various other countries and regions. In particular, Japan has been continuously leading international human resource development and capacity building in Asia, through the Integrated Support Center for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Nuclear Security of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency. The Center, or the ISCN, is the first support center for enhancing nuclear security in Asia. Until now, the ISCN has received more than 4600 experts, mainly from Asian countries, and has provided them with training courses. Japan is determined to continue its contribution in this field.

Co-Presidents,

As you all may know, Tokyo will host the Olympic and Paralympic Games this summer. Last October, bearing these important events in mind, relevant ministries and agencies of the Government, in collaboration with the IAEA, carried out a table top exercise on nuclear security measures for major public events. I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the IAEA for its support, and welcome all of you to visit Japan, which has become even safer through such efforts.

Lastly, we would like to express once again our pledges to work with the IAEA and its member-states to continuously contribute to the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear security under the leadership of Director General Grossi.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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