

Statement by Japan at the IAEA International Ministerial Conference

“Nuclear Power in the 21st Century”

Washington, DC, October 26, 2022

1. Introduction

Ms. President,
Mr. Director General,
Distinguished guests,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to express my sincere congratulations on the successful holding of the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century, here in Washington, D.C.

2. Roles of nuclear power in the world

Ms. President,

The world's energy situation is currently in the midst of a tumultuous transition. The sudden tightening of supply and demand and soaring international prices are having a serious impact on the world economy, which had been recovering from the downturn caused by the new coronavirus. Under these circumstances, deliberate efforts to decarbonize energy are becoming increasingly difficult. Then, again, We are now acutely aware of

the difficulty of shifting away from depending on fossil fuels.

Nuclear power is the key to mitigate energy supply and demand, addressing climate change, and resolving these issues. The need for the value of nuclear power - its stability, affordability, and environmental performance - has never been greater.

3. Japan's Efforts to Address the Challenges

Ms. President,

I would like to introduce three issues that Japan is addressing.

The first issue is to expand the use of nuclear energy. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Kishida, Japan is working to achieve a "green transformation" that will transform its economy, society, and industrial structure to one centered on clean energy. I am also serving as State Minister responsible for GX. In this effort, nuclear energy plays an important role. Currently, we are studying issues such as the development and construction of next-generation innovative reactors and the extension of the operating periods of existing nuclear power plants.

We also intend to actively contribute to

expanding the use of nuclear energy in countries around the world by taking advantage of Japan's industrial base and technological expertise in nuclear energy. Japan will continue to promote the restart of nuclear power plants whose safety has been confirmed, and will work with the United States and other like-minded countries to maintain and strengthen highly reliable supply chains. Through these efforts, we will support the introduction of nuclear power generation, including small modular reactors (SMRs), in countries around the world.

The second issue is the response to the accident at the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. Japan has been steadily advancing the decommissioning of the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station and environmental remediation activities off site, with the cooperation of the Agency, which has a unique mandate and expertise.

Regarding the handling of ALPS treated water, Japan has been preparing for the discharge into the sea on the condition of ensuring safety.

Although the radiological impact of discharging ALPS treated water into the sea on the public and

the environment was assessed minimal, the discharge of ALPS treated water has been reviewed strictly by the Agency, and after the objective confirmation is acquired, the discharge will be commenced. The review by the Agency will continue before, during and after the ALPS treated water discharge.

In close cooperation with the international community including the Agency, Japan has been taking measures strictly abiding by relevant international law while giving due considerations to international practice and has been explaining to the international community in a highly transparent manner based on scientific evidence and will continue doing so.

The third issue is to ensure the safety of Ukraine's nuclear facilities and to support the country's recovery from the war.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere respect for the strong leadership of Director General Grossi, including the IAEA's support to Ukraine and the dispatch of a mission to the Zaporizhia nuclear power plant.

Japan shares the value of the efforts being made by the IAEA and will do its utmost to support them.

Furthermore, we sincerely hope that the situation will be brought to a peaceful and speedy end, and we will support Ukraine in its recovery from the war, drawing on our experience in the recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake.

I conclude my speech with these declarations.

Thank you.