

## **Achieving the Vision of a World Free of Nuclear Weapons**

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**How can increasing demand for nuclear energy be squared with disarmament objectives?**

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Distinguished guests,  
Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, allow me to extend my sincere appreciation to the Government of Norway for organizing this conference. Entitled “Achieving the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons”, this conference has great relevance for me not only as a citizen whose country has experienced devastation from nuclear bombings, but also as a responsible official of a government which has been making the utmost efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation with the aim of realizing a peaceful and safe world free of nuclear weapons.

Today, I have been asked to address the conference under the subtitle “How can increasing demand for nuclear energy be squared with disarmament objectives?”. Here, I would like to explain my views on how the peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be promoted, by referring to Japan’s experiences in the utilization of nuclear energy and its endeavors to deal with the associated potential risk.

### **Inalienable Right to Use of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes**

First, let me begin with some very general statements regarding the right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy as a starting point for our discussions.

Nuclear energy has made an invaluable contribution to mankind in various areas including power generation, human health, agriculture and industry. The utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is enshrined in the NPT as an “inalienable right” and constitutes one of the three pillars of the NPT, together with non-proliferation of

nuclear weapons and the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. To slight any of these three pillars would seriously jeopardize the credibility and the feasible compliance of the entire NPT regime. This aforementioned right should be respected and carried out in a balanced manner in keeping with the other objectives of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

### **Potential Risk in Uses of Nuclear Energy**

On the other hand, there is the potential risk of proliferation in nuclear energy. Nuclear weapon capability can be developed under the cover of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Access to nuclear technology without the highest standard of safeguards could lead to the development of nuclear weapon capabilities, as demonstrated by the North Korean nuclear issue. The nuclear test proclaimed by North Korea in October 2006, combined with its buildup of ballistic missiles, is a threat to international peace and security, and is a serious challenge to the NPT regime. One can but urge North Korea to fully implement the Joint Statement of September 2005, especially to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs. We also have to keep in mind such potential risk inherent in the uses of nuclear energy in dealing with the Iranian nuclear issue. No country is denying Iran the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. However, Iran has to restore the confidence of the international community by complying fully with the all relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council if it wishes to exercise its right. Given these situations, we see an urgent need for strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime by meeting both goals of non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a harmonized and balanced manner.

### **Initiatives and Discussions to Reduce the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation**

There are a number of initiatives to deal with such a need. One of the topics of the ongoing discussions includes the nuclear fuel supply assurance, which aims to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy while reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation by providing a viable alternative for acquiring sensitive nuclear-fuel-cycle technologies on a voluntary basis.

These include the Multilateral Nuclear Approaches (MNA) proposed by the IAEA Director General; the Russian initiative on the international center to provide nuclear fuel cycle services; the six-nation initiative proposed by France, Germany, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States

(Multilateral Mechanism for Reliable Access to Nuclear Fuel); and the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP).

The purposes of these initiatives are: (1) to establish a backup mechanism that would solve nuclear fuel supply problems which could occur in the future; (2) to establish a mechanism such as the international framework for management of nuclear fuel cycle related facilities and the assurance of nuclear fuel supply; and (3) to develop proliferation-resistant nuclear fuel cycle technologies.

Japan has also proposed an “IAEA Standby Arrangements System for the Assurance of Nuclear Fuel Supply” with a view to complementing the aforementioned six-nation initiative on reliable access to nuclear fuel. This Standby Arrangements System will cover not only uranium enrichment but all the phases of the whole front-end of the nuclear fuel cycle, such as uranium ore supply, conversion and fuel fabrication, uranium stock and reserves, so that many countries will be able to participate under certain conditions and to make contributions. It will also help prevent and respond to market failure.

Japan will continue to take part in and contribute to international discussions at the IAEA and other fora in a constructive manner.

Japan also welcomes the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) as an initiative leading to the expansion of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes worldwide in a safe and secure manner, while reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation. To address these issues, the GNEP partner states established its working groups on infrastructure development and nuclear fuel services, which will hold their first meetings in March. From the beginning, Japan has worked with the states concerned to realize this initiative and will continue to contribute to the realization and success of this initiative.

Japan is convinced that these initiatives and discussions should be carried out in a way that does not infringe on the “inalienable right” to genuine peaceful uses of nuclear energy and with the aim of establishing a practical framework that could enjoy a broad acceptance by states concerned.

While these initiatives are aimed at dealing with non-proliferation concerns and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, there are other elements to be taken care of in the uses

of nuclear energy. One is nuclear safety and the other is nuclear security. In particular, the international community has renewed its awareness of the real and imminent threat of terrorism involving nuclear weapons and material since 11 September 2001. States that pursue peaceful nuclear energy uses need to deal with nuclear security matters seriously.

Therefore, it is our belief that we should focus more on efforts aimed at promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a manner that ensures three Ss, which are nuclear non-proliferation/safeguards, safety and security.

### **Japan's Experience**

As the subtitle of this session well indicates, the international community faces a classic yet new question; "How can and should nuclear energy be used in a manner that does not jeopardize the other major objectives of the NPT, or in a manner that ensures three Ss?"

In responding to this question, I believe that Japan's experience can provide a good example for states interested in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Japan, first of all, continues to adhere to the "Three Non-Nuclear Principles," of not possessing nuclear weapons, not producing, and not permitting the introduction of nuclear weapons into Japan. "The Atomic Energy Basic Law" also limits the use of nuclear energy to peaceful purposes. It is under these strict national policy and regulations that Japan has started to utilize recovered materials such as plutonium and uranium from reprocessed spent nuclear fuel. In addition to these political and legal commitments, Japan further applies stringent and concrete safeguards, security and safety measures to its nuclear activities in accordance with international standards. There is no doubt that Japan has acquired international credibility in conducting civilian nuclear activities. I can say that such credibility is mainly the fruit of multiple measures, both political and technical, to make our nuclear activities, safe, secure and transparent. Now, I would like to talk to you about some of these measures.

### ***Strict application of IAEA safeguards***

First, Japan regards the IAEA safeguards system as the fundamental pillar of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. Since 1977, when Japan concluded the comprehensive safeguards agreement with the IAEA, Japan has shown an excellent

record of compliance with the agreement by ensuring strict application of the IAEA safeguards. Furthermore, Japan has fully implemented the additional protocol since 1999. As a result, the IAEA, which started the application of integrated safeguards in Japan since 2004, has come to the conclusion that there is no indication of diversion of declared nuclear material from peaceful nuclear activities and no indication of undeclared nuclear material and activities.

#### ***Voluntary measures taken for the Rokkasho plant***

In addition, Japan voluntarily introduced the elements concluded at the multinational examination of the Large Scale Reprocessing Plant Safeguards (LASCAR). The examination of the LASCAR was aimed at discussing how safeguards measures are applied at large scale reprocessing plants. As a result, it is broadly recognized within the international community that stringent safeguards measures are in place at the Rokkasho reprocessing plant.

#### ***Stringent Security and Safety Measures***

In order to prevent nuclear terrorism, the international community must cooperate at regional and international levels, and exert individual and collective efforts in relation to the exchange of information, enhancing both security at border controls and the physical protection of nuclear material and nuclear facilities. In this respect, Japan considers it critical for all States to become Parties, as soon as practicable, to the two universal instruments to prevent nuclear terrorism; namely, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

The former convention came into effect last year and aims to strengthen international cooperation as well as to prevent nuclear terrorism by taking effective and practical measures to prosecute and punish alleged offenders. Japan concluded this convention last August. The Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material aims to establish a strengthened system for control and protection of nuclear material. As this convention has not yet come into effect, it is urgently needed for all countries concerned to conclude the Amendment. Japan is also making every effort to conclude it as soon as practicable.

Japan also supports the IAEA *Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources*, endorsed at the IAEA General Conference in September 2003, as

well as the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources approved at the IAEA Board of Governors in 2004. Japan is implementing both of these to its nuclear activities.

### ***Stringent safety measures***

Japan also places the highest priority on the safety of its nuclear activities and facilities. Japan has been applying stringent safety measures in accordance with the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. Japan participated in the second review meeting of the “Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. This led Japan to have opportunities to receive peer-reviews of the contracting parties on the safety of radioactive waste management as well as on the safety nuclear installations. Japan has also actively participated in the information exchange on safety regulation and study of issues concerning nuclear safety in the IAEA, the OECD/NEA and other relevant international organizations. The obtained information and the study results have been utilized for the substantial regulation of Japan.

### ***IAEA follow-up missions to Kashiwazaki Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant***

Let me also touch upon a voluntary measure taken by the Japanese Government for the Kashiwazaki Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant after a strong earthquake in July 2007. On July 16, 2007, a magnitude 6.8 earthquake occurred offshore at Chuetsu, in the Niigata Prefecture about 16 km away from the Kashiwazaki Kariwa nuclear power station of Tokyo Electric Power. Some units that were in operation were automatically shut down with the scram signal due to this earthquake, while the rest were in shut down for the periodic inspection. After the earthquake, a very small amount of radioactive material was released into the sea and into the air. The released amount was much less than the limit defined by law, and resulted in no significant radiation exposure to the public.

Japan has invited an IAEA mission and conducted a joint fact-finding mission with the IAEA, in order to share invaluable information with the international community on the impact of this earthquake on the nuclear power station. The results of the fact-finding mission were shared at the Senior Regulators’ Meeting of the IAEA in last September and the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency Steering Committee for Nuclear Energy in last October. Recently, an IAEA follow up fact-finding mission has concluded from its examination of the plant’s key safety areas that there was no significant

damage to safety equipment from the strong earthquake last year. The Director General of the IAEA, Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, also stated that an international response to the earthquake is appropriate because of its relevance to other nuclear plants worldwide, and welcomed Japan's continued cooperation with the IAEA's efforts.

### **Japan's Efforts to Ensure 3Ss in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy**

With these experiences, Japan has proactively engaged in international efforts to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy while ensuring three Ss: non-proliferation/safeguards, safety and security. Under the so-called "Nuclear Renaissance", a growing number of countries -according to some calculations, around 30 countries- have expressed their interest in or considered embarking upon nuclear power generation programs. This trend is likely to continue against the background of growing concerns over energy security and global warming. Japan has been encouraging and assisting those countries which have expressed interest in nuclear power generation programs; helping these countries to establish a solid 3Ss infrastructure before they actually embark upon nuclear programs.

The IAEA has an essential role to play in this field. It has significant nuclear security programs financed through its Nuclear Security Fund, which is supported by the voluntary contributions of Member States. It also serves as the focal point for coordinating various international efforts to enhance nuclear security worldwide. Japan has therefore contributed to the Nuclear Security Fund to support regional seminars in Asia and assisting States such as Kazakhstan to upgrade their nuclear security capabilities, in addition to its bilateral cooperative efforts in this field.

In this context, Japan hosted a seminar in January aimed at promoting the accession to the international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, inviting government officials and experts from Asia Pacific countries. At the seminar, Japan presented an overview of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and its experience in concluding the Convention, by explaining the new domestic law, which was drafted to implement the Convention. As a result of these efforts, there is wider understanding about the importance of those conventions among officials and experts, and they seem to be more motivated to establishing the national legal basis necessary for strengthening nuclear security, and to seeking early accession to those conventions.

Japan has also advised and encouraged the Republic of Kazakhstan to ratify the Additional Protocol. Acknowledging the importance of the Additional Protocol in ensuring nuclear non-proliferation, Japan would request, as a matter of policy, any state, with whom Japan enters into bilateral talks for nuclear cooperation agreements, to conclude the Additional Protocol beforehand. Furthermore, in the framework of the NSG, Japan proposes that conclusion of the Additional Protocol be a prerequisite for the export of items on its trigger list.

### **Responsibilities of Nuclear Weapons States**

Today, I have tried to describe my country's policies and measures on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a way that is as concrete as possible. All these instances reflect our firm commitment to the very fundamental objectives of the NPT. The preamble of the NPT stipulates that "the proliferation of nuclear weapons would seriously enhance the danger of nuclear war". Having said that, I should reiterate our belief in the importance of the balance of the three pillars of the treaty. Slighting any of these pillars would seriously jeopardize the credibility of the entire NPT regime. This is why I refer to the responsibilities of Nuclear Weapon States at the end of my speech. While non-nuclear weapon states with developed nuclear power capability should demonstrate how a civil nuclear program could be developed without raising proliferation concerns, just as is the case in Japan, nuclear weapons states should also take further steps towards disarmament. It is important for all States Parties to honor their commitments under the NPT.

### **Closing**

It seems that the expansion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy is set to continue. It is important for the international community to deliberate ways to achieving peaceful uses of nuclear energy which are consistent with non-proliferation/safeguards, nuclear safety and nuclear security as well as to strengthen the international non-proliferation regime. It would be valuable to deepen such discussions within the NPT review process and Japan has been actively participating in the deliberations.

Holding the G8 presidency this year, Japan also intends to highlight the peaceful uses of nuclear energy at the G8 summit. In this context, Japan intends to confirm that support measures from the international community are important components of the infrastructure development in the introduction of nuclear power generation, while recognizing the essential role and function of the IAEA in this area.