Statement by Japan at the IAEA International Ministerial Conference

"Nuclear Power in the 21st Century"

Abu Dhabi, October 30, 2017

1. Introduction

Mr. 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 Abu Dhabi.

2. Roles of nuclear power in the world

Mr. President,

Nuclear power is one of energy sources essential to addressing global environmental issues while reconciling economic growth with energy security, in the midst of a continuously growing demand for energy from around the world.

Japan will continue to work with other countries on various challenges related to the use of nuclear energy that need to be tackled, such as enhancing nuclear safety, ensuring public understanding and transparency, and issue of final disposal.

3. Addressing issues in Japan

Mr. President,

Japan has given its top priorities to measures at Fukushima. The decommissioning and contaminated water management measures for the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station are proceeding steadily. The Japanese government revised the mid- to long-term roadmap in September this year incorporating the policy of fuel debris retrieval. Environmental remediation activities are also making progress, with the decontamination measures being completed as planned in the areas where the Government of Japan is responsible for such measures. Japan has maintained full transparency with the world and calls for lifting import restrictions on Japanese food based on scientific evidence.

Mr. President,

Japan has positioned nuclear power as an important base-load power source, even after the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident. It is based on the perspective of "3E plus S": namely, Energy security, Economic Efficiency and Environment, plus Safety. Japan aims to make nuclear power twenty to twenty-two percent of its electricity in 2030. Four years ago, none of our nuclear power stations were operating, but restarts of nuclear power stations are progressing, and five reactors have restarted. Japan started discussion this August to review Strategic Energy Plan toward the achievement of the energy mix in 2030.

Mr. President,

Japan has been actively working to enhance nuclear safety based on the lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident, including by fundamentally reforming Japan's regulatory structure. Building on the recommendations and suggestions of the 2016 Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) missions, Japan has been working to make further improvements in nuclear regulations, for instance, by making amendments to legislation in April this year to introduce a new regulatory inspection system. Japanese operators are also continuing their efforts which include receiving the IAEA's Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) mission.

Mr. President,

Needless to say, ensuring public understanding and transparency is crucial for the use of nuclear energy. This year, the Government of Japan published the Basic Policy for Nuclear Energy which outlines long-term policy directions for nuclear energy use, and resumed the publication of the White Paper on Nuclear Energy. Japan will continue to try to gain public understanding and confidence while ensuring safety first and foremost.

Japan also continues to promote its nuclear fuel cycle, with top-level transparency in the world. For that purpose, under the stringent application of the IAEA Safeguards and strict adherence to the principle of not possessing plutonium without specific purposes, we will continue to steadily utilize plutonium in Light Water Reactors (LWRs) as MOX fuels,

strengthen the governance of reprocessing projects, and advance transparency and confidence-building measures, including the publication of 'the Status Report of Plutonium Management in Japan'.

Mr. President,

Final disposal facilities for radioactive wastes are also indispensable in nuclear energy use. Japan published the "Nationwide Map of Scientific Features for Geological Disposal" in this July, which is the first step in a long way toward the realization of the final disposal facilities.

4. Japan's contribution to the common challenges

Mr. President,

Japan will keep contributing to efforts of the international community to address these common challenges. Japan will continue to share its experience and lessons learnt from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident with the international community and contribute to enhancing nuclear safety worldwide. We will do so by supporting the IAEA's activities for development of institutional infrastructure in countries newly introducing nuclear power stations, by supporting human resource development including the Nuclear Energy Management School, by making use of the IAEA's Peaceful Uses Initiative, and by supporting workshops held by the IAEA RANET Capacity Building Centre in Fukushima. At the same time, Japan underlines the importance of considering safety and ensuring transparency.

Japan has been assisting IAEA activities in promoting public acceptance for more than 25 years. Japan Atomic Energy Agency's Integrated Support Center for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Nuclear Security also supports capacity building to enhance non-proliferation and nuclear security.

Regarding final disposal, Japan will share its experience with the world, to help those countries facing the same challenge.

5. Conclusion

Mr. President,

Through the activities I mentioned now, Japan, as an original Member State of the IAEA and one of the leading countries in this field, reiterates its commitment to further promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Thank you.