

Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Strengthening international nuclear non-proliferation

Working paper submitted by Japan

1. To achieve the goal of “a world free of nuclear weapons”, the spread of nuclear weapons must be prevented. Specifically, efforts for nuclear non-proliferation are essential. These efforts are designed to prevent the emergence of new nuclear-weapon States as well as the circumstances that lead to the emergence of such countries.

2. In this context, as a new concept in the policy of the Government of Japan in the field of nuclear non-proliferation, we have introduced “three preventions”: (a) prevention of the emergence of new nuclear-weapon States; (b) prevention of the proliferation of nuclear-weapons-related materials and technologies; and (c) prevention of nuclear terrorism.

Prevention of the emergence of new nuclear-weapon States

3. The first pillar of this new concept is the prevention of the emergence of new nuclear-weapon States. Preventing the emergence of new nuclear-weapon States is one of the most important pillars of Japan’s non-proliferation policy.

4. The continued development by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea of nuclear and missile programmes poses a grave threat to regional and global peace and stability. In coordination with the United States of America, the Republic of Korea and other countries concerned, Japan strongly urges the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to take concrete actions towards its denuclearization. We will never accept possession of nuclear weapons by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea under any circumstances.

5. The Iranian nuclear issue is also a matter of concern for Japan. Japan, in various diplomatic exchanges, has strongly urged the Islamic Republic of Iran to ratify the Additional Protocol to the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as well as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and to fully cooperate with IAEA to remove international concerns regarding its nuclear activities. Japan will, in coordination with the international community, continue to be actively engaged in international efforts in the pursuit of a final and comprehensive resolution to the issue.



6. The IAEA safeguards, which serve as practical measures to detect the diversion of peaceful nuclear activities to military uses as well as to detect clandestine nuclear activities, are a fundamental component in the international non-proliferation regime.

7. As the country receiving the greatest number of IAEA inspections in the world and one of the pioneers in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, with this long-standing knowledge and experience, we will continue to work with the international community so that all concerned countries conclude the Additional Protocol in order for safeguards to be further strengthened.

Prevention of the proliferation of nuclear-weapons-related materials and technologies

8. The second pillar of this policy is the prevention of the proliferation of materials and technologies that could contribute to nuclear-weapons development. In order to prevent the emergence of new nuclear-weapon States, it is important to implement, in addition to the above, export controls for the prevention of the procurement of nuclear-related materials by parties pursuing the possession of nuclear weapons.

9. In recent years, along with their economic development, Asian countries have been acquiring the capacity to produce materials and technologies that could be diverted to the development of nuclear weapons as well as missiles as a means of delivery.

10. Meanwhile, illegal procurement activities are becoming increasingly sophisticated, utilizing front companies and making use of transit points in Asia. Therefore, there is an increased risk that these countries might export such materials and technologies to countries of concern without recognizing that they could be diverted to nuclear-weapons development.

11. It is also a fact, however, that there is still recognition among Asian countries that export controls could impede trade and investment, and that non-proliferation efforts may, therefore, pose obstacles to economic growth. With this in mind, Japan is determined to reinforce the international non-proliferation network by strengthening diplomatic cooperation with like-minded countries, such as the United States and Australia. Japan will work tirelessly to explain to Asian countries that the strengthening of export controls fosters confidence in the reliability of trade or investment partners, and creates a favourable environment for further economic growth rather than impeding trade and investment.

Prevention of nuclear terrorism

12. The third pillar is the prevention of nuclear terrorism. Along with the above-mentioned measures, it is also extremely important to prevent “nuclear terrorism”, which is an act of terror by non-State actors, such as terrorist organizations, utilizing nuclear and other radioactive materials.

13. Strengthening nuclear security is important from the following three perspectives: (a) Japan’s national security; (b) maintaining public order; and (c) promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. If many countries build and strengthen their capacity to counter nuclear terrorism, confidence-building among nations will be promoted in the field of international security.

14. Japan will continue to contribute actively to strengthening global nuclear security and counter-terrorism activities as one of the countries with the most advanced nuclear technology through various international forums, including IAEA.
