

Delegation from Japan

Position Paper for the General Assembly

The topics before the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) are: Nuclear Disarmament and International Security; and Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All; and Combating Human Trafficking. Japan is deeply committed to be part of the peaceful global conversation realized by the GA. We thus advocate cooperation and successful communication between all Member States in order to find effective solutions to the above-mentioned problems.

I. Nuclear Disarmament and International Security

With international disputes and armed conflicts on the rise, the production, possession and application of nuclear weapons raises the fear of the use of nuclear technology in war. Although the international community has adopted numerous treaties and resolutions to ensure total global disarmament, nuclear weapons keep posing a consistent threat to international peace and security. As Japan is the only country to have ever suffered from atomic bombings, we have been leading the international discussion on disarmament and non-proliferation ever since. The traumatic events of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 have deeply influenced our ideal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Japan has proven itself an advocate for nuclear disarmament for many years now. In 1955 we implemented the Atomic Energy Basic Law, which restricts Japan's nuclear energy use exclusively to peaceful purposes. The "Three Non-Nuclear Principles" were adopted by the Japanese Diet in 1968 and added more detailed instructions to the ban of nuclear weapons. Japan restricted itself not to own, produce or allow the introduction of nuclear weapons onto Japanese soil. We are deeply committed to the landmark *Treaty on the Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)*, whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology and to promote nuclear disarmament, which entered into force in 1970 and has served as a guidance to Japan. Since the NPT is the only legally binding commitment in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament of nuclear-weapon states, Japan has been actively advocating and strengthening its global implementation through bilateral and multilateral efforts. As cooperation and confidence-building measures are regarded significant to enhance denuclearization, the Non-proliferation and disarmament initiative (NPDI) was established in 2010 under the initiative of Japan and Australia. The cross-regional group consisting of 12 non-nuclear weapon states such as Germany, Turkey and the United Arab Emirate contributes to the implementation of the NPT's goals. To express our dissatisfaction with the insufficient actions of the international community, Japan submitted the resolution 74/63 *Joint Courses of Action and Future oriented Dialogue towards a world without nuclear weapons* in December 2019 in the GA. Our effort resulted in the adoption of the resolution by 160 Member States. The resolution reaffirms the importance of the international community to take immediate actions to conduct future oriented dialogues on nuclear disarmament.

In regard to the urgency of finding solutions to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in nuclear weapon states, Japan would like to emphasize the significance of bringing together non-nuclear weapon states and nuclear-weapons states, since all measures of consensus between the Member States have failed. To enhance and strengthen communication, Japan invites the NPDI non-nuclear weapon states to create an effective dialogue with nuclear weapons states, by creating a platform to come together within the scope of an open debate to discuss further procedures in nuclear disarmament and international security.

II. Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All

Within the last year the international community has been making necessary efforts towards developing a stable energy supply and establishing a low-carbon society. Unfortunately, an alarming number of 1.2 billion people worldwide have still been left behind from electrification, 75% of whom live in either Africa or South Asia. With an enormous population growth predicted for the near future, the problem of providing energy to all is expected to exacerbate the precarious situation. Seeing the urgent need of effective solutions, Japan has been sharing its advanced technologies and experience in pioneering efforts to apply new technologies to developing countries.

Recognizing that ensuring access to energy for all is of utmost importance for social and economic stabilization, Japan's main aim is to contribute to the enhancement, expansion and stabilization of developing countries' national power systems. Thus, Japan is deeply committed to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7, Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy

for All. In order to provide a whole-government approach to build a National Implementation Framework around the SDGs, the SDGs Promotion Headquarter was launched within the cabinet. This entity will serve as a control tower to implement, monitor and review the efforts of the government to realize the 2030 Agenda, including SDG 7. Our efforts are best described through our “3L Policies”, promoting “Low-Cost”, “Low-Carbon” and “Low-Risk” in a well-balanced approach. Japan has been sharing its expertise in the field of energy by elaborating upstream plans to support the formulation of electricity master plans as well as feasibility studies for the implementation of national power plants. The Sultanate of Oman is one of the Member States currently benefitting from our activities through our Project for Energy Conservation Master Plan, to determine electricity use at factories, buildings, stores and homes. In addition to our bilateral work, Japan also cooperates with the World Bank to promote support of the “African Power Pool”, which aims to construct an interconnected power system, stabilize power grid systems and introduce highly efficient power generation facilities.

In our commitment to provide modern energy for all, Japan is convinced that only international cooperation can approach the extensive range of bringing electricity to each city and household. Since this collaboration is already partly taking place in form of the “African Power Pool”, we believe it imperative to further invest in underlying infrastructures and distributed generation capacity as well as a shift in thinking from short-term oriented objectives towards long-term solutions to effectively improve the “African Power Pool” and strengthen trust among states. Japan is looking forward to enriching debates about efforts to increase the access of affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all in hopes for a peaceful and effective solution.

III. Combating Human Trafficking

Trafficking in persons is a grave violation of human rights, including the right to life, liberty, security and freedom of movement. With around 40.3 million people worldwide affected, trafficking in persons requires a prompt and appropriate response from a humanitarian perspective. As human trafficking is a serious crime that takes place across borders, measures to combat trafficking in persons are most effective through international cooperation. Since Japan is a destination, source, and transit country for men, women and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking, combating human trafficking is of highest importance to Japan.

Japan appreciates the efforts made by the UN during the past decades and stands in full support with the *United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT)*, which sets an important framework for the international community working to eradicate human trafficking. Since we believe that transnational organized crime concerns all Member States, we are promoting dialogue with other countries in terms of the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)*. To strengthen our commitment, Japan has acceded to the *Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children*, which additionally supplements the UNTOC. In line with the UN-ACT, Japan adopted the 2014 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons to approach the problem nationally and inter-regionally. In that regard, Japan is focusing on creating opportunities enabling exchange of knowledge and information, such as the Contact Point Meeting which Japan hosts once a year. All actors concerned by trafficking in persons including the Japanese National Police Agency (NPA), foreign embassies, international organizations and NGOs are invited to discuss trafficking cases and share relevant data. In addition, the Japanese Immigration Bureau has invited immigration officers from across Southeast Asia to a seminar on immigration control in Southeast Asia. Every year, since 1987, participants exchange information on the current situation and measures to combat trafficking in persons as well as to rescue and protect trafficked victims. Alongside interregional actions, Japan has been also working on strengthening bilateral relations to tackle human trafficking, one example for this being the Japan-Thailand Joint Task Force on Counter Trafficking in Persons, which was established to reinforce the cooperation between Japan and Thailand on prevention, law enforcement and protection.

Since human trafficking is conducted on an international level, Japan promotes an international approach based on cooperation between Member States. We propose the expansion of the Contact Meeting Point with Southeast Asian countries and invite other regions worldwide to establish similar regional forums to enhance information-sharing as well as promote trust between participating States. During a yearly conference, elected representatives of each regional Meeting Point could come together to present the efforts made in their specific region. A global conversation between international experts will strongly benefit the goal to combat human trafficking once and for all.