Mr. Chairman,

In cluster 3, I would like to discuss briefly Japan's views regarding nuclear energy, the peaceful application of nuclear technology and the promotion of technical cooperation. I congratulate the DDG Cetto for her useful and interesting presentation on the potentials of nuclear technology applications.

1. Nuclear Energy

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to emphasize that the promotion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy serves to secure a stable supply of electric power. It also helps preventing the global warming. Japan has agreed to the indefinite extension of the NPT and steadfastly upheld the letter and spirit of the provision of the NPT, with clear understanding that the right to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy is one of the key principles of the NPT. Japan, therefore, attaches great importance to the peaceful use of nuclear power. As a nation which depends for its energy supply on imported resources, Japan is continuing its efforts to promote nuclear power and establish a nuclear fuel cycle by steadily promoting the development of a fast reactor. At the same time, ensuring nuclear safety and transparency of its nuclear program remain the top priority of Japan. We are making every effort to uphold the highest standard of safety and transparency.

In this connection, we recognize the right of other NPT States to the peaceful use of nuclear power. But I reiterate the equally firm view of Japan that more advanced a state's nuclear technology, the greater its responsibility towards the peaceful use of nuclear energy and enhanced transparency.

2. Nuclear Sciences and Applications

I would like to express Japan's support for and commend the IAEA's policy of using nuclear technologies to address various global issues.

Nuclear technologies offer enormous potentials for promoting human security and sustainable development; medical diagnosis and treatment, eradication of disease, food production and preservation,
reducing greenhouse gases and development of water resources, etc. We welcome the active participation of the IAEA in global fora such as WSSD and World Water Forum (WWF). However, the word 'nuclear' appears in neither the Plan of Implementation nor the Johannesburg Declaration. I believe it is important that the unique role of nuclear techniques and isotopes be recognized in the context of discussions on global issues, such as climate change, human health, water and the eradication of poverty. We therefore look forward to the Agency playing a significant role in these issues.

3. Technical Cooperation

Mr. Chairman,

The promotion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy through technical cooperation is an important responsibility of States parties to the NPT. In particular, we recognize the increasingly important role played by technical cooperation activities through the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund. We believe that IAEA activities, not only in the field of nuclear power, but also in broader fields such as water, medical, health, agricultural and industrial applications, will contribute to sustainable development. From this viewpoint, Japan will continue to promote international cooperation to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; including the positive contribution to Asian countries through the Regional Cooperative Agreement for Asia and the Pacific (RCA).

Japan has consistently paid 100% of our share of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund, which means we are making in effect a contribution of approximately a quarter of the Technical Cooperation Fund of the total. To strengthen the activities of the Technical Cooperation Fund, it is necessary for donor governments of the IAEA to increase their efforts to achieve the Rate of Attainment through payment of their respective shares of the Technical Cooperation Fund without delay. Japan also expects countries that have received support through the IAEA Technical Cooperation programme to fulfill their obligations, as mentioned in the final document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference, and pay their Assessed Programme Costs.

I would also like to emphasize the importance of the IAEA promoting partnership with other developmental agencies. In whichever field of sustainable development, the expertise and resources of the IAEA could be fuller utilized if they are better coordinating with those of other multilateral and bilateral partnership.

Japan supports the new technical cooperation strategy of the Agency to extend its scope of partnership.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.