

**Preparatory Committee for the 2010
Review Conference of the Parties to
the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation
of Nuclear Weapons**

NPT/CONF.2010/PC.II/WP.7
25 April 2008

Original: ENGLISH

Second session
Geneva, 28 April-9 May 2008

CLUSTER 2: NON-PROLIFERATION AND SAFEGUARDS

**“TOWARDS THE STRENGTHENING OF THE IAEA SAFEGUARDS
SYSTEM AND THE UNIVERSAL APPLICATION OF
ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL”**

Working Paper submitted by Japan

The role of the IAEA safeguards and the Additional Protocol

1. The risk of nuclear weapons proliferation represents a serious challenge to global security. The non-proliferation of nuclear weapons is a fundamental goal of the NPT and implementation of the nuclear non-proliferation obligations set out in the NPT must be ensured through IAEA safeguards.
2. The IAEA is the competent authority responsible for verifying and assuring non-diversion of declared nuclear materials through application of safeguards. It is important that the effectiveness of the IAEA safeguards should be strengthened by maximizing IAEA's authority and capacity.

3. Japan strongly believes that the universalization of the Additional Protocol is the most realistic and effective way to strengthen the current non-proliferation regime. The Additional Protocol, when fully implemented in addition to States' comprehensive safeguards agreements, can play a pivotal role in increasing the transparency of States' nuclear related activities by providing the IAEA with the enhanced verification ability. Japan believes that IAEA safeguards, reinforced by universal adherence to the Additional Protocol, should constitute the NPT safeguards standard as required by paragraph 1 of Article III of the NPT.

4. In the context of the expected expansion and introduction of nuclear power generation in response to increasing energy demand and global warming, tackling the associated potential proliferation risks is becoming all the more important. Japan believes it imperative that the peaceful use of nuclear energy be promoted in a manner consistent with the highest level of safeguards standards including the IAEA Additional Protocol.

Japan's commitment to peaceful use of nuclear energy

5. Japan has been strictly limiting the use of nuclear energy to peaceful purposes since the enactment of the Atomic Energy Basic Law in 1955 upon the introduction of nuclear power. Japan also upholds its "Three Non-nuclear Principles" of "not possessing, not producing and not permitting the introduction of nuclear weapons into Japan."

6. Japan has been utilizing nuclear energy for solely peaceful purposes, fully ensuring international confidence and maintaining highest level of transparency through faithful implementation of the IAEA safeguards agreement concluded in 1977, the early conclusion of the Additional Protocol in 1999, and implementation of integrated safeguards commenced in 2004. It is under these strict national policy and regulations that Japan has started utilizing recovered materials such as plutonium and uranium from reprocessed spent nuclear fuel.

Japan's efforts for the universalization of the Additional Protocol

7. Japan has been actively taking initiatives, in cooperation with the IAEA and like-minded countries, to universalize the Additional Protocol. Japan has contributed to a series of IAEA seminars, which resulted in shared awareness on the importance of the Additional Protocol and the steady increase in the number of countries that have signed/ concluded an additional protocol in recent years. Last year, Japan supported and participated in the IAEA safeguards regional seminar held in Sydney, Australia, the National Seminar on Additional Protocol held in Hanoi, Vietnam, and the IAEA Regional Technical Meeting on Additional Protocol Implementation in Asia and the Pacific Region held in Sydney.

 8. Japan has been also hosting the Asian Senior-level Talks on Non-proliferation (ASTOP) yearly since 2003 in which Japan has been working to promote the understanding of the Additional Protocol and to remove factors which could create obstacles to the conclusion of the Protocol. Since 2004, Japan has participated in the G-8 joint demarche led by G8 Chairs to facilitate conclusion of the Additional Protocol worldwide. Japan, serving as G8 Chair this year, intends to continue such efforts.

 9. Furthermore, to support the IAEA's non-proliferation activities and to strengthen its verification capability, Japan made an additional contribution (€ 6.91 million) to the IAEA Fund for Non-Proliferation this year. Through this contribution, Japan intends to assist those countries which are determined to achieve maximum transparency with respect to their nuclear activities and the highest level of safeguards standard including the Additional Protocol.
-

