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STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. YOSHIKI MINE
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HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 61ST SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY GENERAL DEBATE

4 OCTOBER 2006
NEW YORK

Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,

I would first like to appreciate your indulgence in giving us an opportunity to make a statement today. In light of the increasing need for this First Committee to respond to the realities we face in the international community in an effective and timely manner, so that this Committee will not lose its relevance, Japan would like to draw the special attention of all Member States to the statement made by the DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday regarding their intention to conduct nuclear testing.

Madam Chairperson,
Japan expresses its deep concern over this statement. Should the DPRK conduct a nuclear test, it would pose a great threat to the peace and security not only of Japan but also of the entire region and beyond. At the same time, it would surely constitute a serious challenge to the NPT regime. Nuclear testing by the DPRK is totally unacceptable. Japan urges the DPRK to exercise maximum restraint and refrain from conducting any nuclear testing.

Japan strongly urges the DPRK to implement faithfully UN Security Council resolution 1695 (2006), in particular by returning immediately and without precondition to the Six-Party Talks and implementing fully the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks of 19 September 2005, in which the DPRK committed itself to abandoning all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes and returning to the NPT and IAEA safeguards.

Madam Chairperson,
Japan requests all Member States to monitor closely the development of this matter and to promptly respond to this serious challenge to the international peace and security, which this Committee is tasked to address.

Thank you.