

On the Adoption of the “Statement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation with India” by the
Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)

September 16, 2008
Japan Atomic Energy Commission

At the Extraordinary Plenary Meeting held from September 4th to 6th, 2008, the NSG adopted “Statement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation with India” by consensus. The statement allows, by way of exception to the NSG guidelines, civil nuclear cooperation with India, which has not ratified the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).

Under the Atomic Energy Basic Law, Japan limits its research, development and use of nuclear power to peaceful purposes only, thereby aiming to contribute to enhancing the welfare of human society. Based on this, the Japan Atomic Energy Commission declares in the “Framework for Nuclear Energy Policy” that “Japan, with the aim of realizing a peaceful and safe world free of nuclear weapons, will advance its nuclear disarmament diplomacy and further enhance the international regime for nuclear non-proliferation.” It says that regarding nuclear disarmament, Japan will continuously work actively toward early ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and call for the talk of Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) to start at the earliest possible time and that as an effort toward nuclear non-proliferation, Japan calls on all States that have not yet done so to bring their Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Additional Protocols into force.

India has argued that the NPT is an unequal treaty and has refused to ratify it from the start. The country has promoted nuclear research and development independently, based on nuclear reactor technology it had imported in the 1960s. At present, it operates seventeen nuclear power units of which total capacity is approximately 4GW, and is constructing another six units including a fast breeder reactor of which total capacity is approximately 3GW. India conducted nuclear tests in the 1970s and 1990s, but since then it has committed itself to a unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing. India has concluded Safeguards Agreements with the IAEA regarding its civil nuclear facilities, promised to sign and adhere to an Additional Protocol on facilities to be placed under the Safeguards. It refrains from transferring sensitive technologies including enrichment and reprocessing to states that do not have them. At the same time, it commits itself to work with others towards the conclusion of FMCT and has expressed at the UN General Assembly its commitment to the negotiation of a convention on the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons, working toward the elimination of nuclear weapons. India’s will to continue these commitments and actions toward nuclear nonproliferation and the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons were reiterated in the statement made by the Indian Minister of External Affairs before the day the NSG Extraordinary Plenary Meeting adopted the statement.

The Japan Atomic Energy Commission understands that the decision of the NSG Extraordinary Plenary Meeting was made on condition that India would keep these commitments and actions, giving due consideration to the fact that the country, which has a population of 1.1 billion people and of which per capita energy consumption is one-eighth of Japan, is trying hard to increase its energy supply with a view to enhancing people’s welfare in a manner consistent with the international community’s move to address global warming.

The Commission considers that Japan should continue efforts to advance its nuclear disarmament diplomacy and strengthen the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, in cooperation with other nations and as a part of this efforts, strongly call upon India to respect the purport of the present decision and continue to act responsibly, with a view to striving for nuclear nonproliferation and the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons.