Japan

In accordance with resolution 78/240 entitled “Addressing the legacy of nuclear weapons: providing victim assistance and environmental remediation to Member States affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons”, we present Japan’s views and proposals on the efforts and needs related to victim assistance and environmental remediation affected by the use and testing of nuclear weapons.

Japan, as the only country to have ever suffered from atomic bombings during war, can fully support the purpose and objective of this resolution, which is to provide assistance to victims and to remediate those environments affected by the use and testing of nuclear weapons, and we believe that this resolution is significant in terms of raising awareness in, increasing the attention of and obtaining more support from the international community for assistance to victims and for environmental remediation. Based on these points, Japan supported this resolution.

The atomic bombs dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, weapons of unparalleled destruction, not only took many precious lives in an instant, but also left the hibakusha who survived with life-long scars and other aftereffects, leaving them in a state of anxiety.

In order to maintain and promote the health and welfare of the hibakusha suffering from health consequences caused by radiation from the atomic bombs, Japan has been promoting comprehensive measures for the hibakusha under the Law concerning Relief to Atomic Bomb Survivors, issuing the Atomic Bomb Survivor’s Certificates for them. The certificates allows them to access a number of services including (1) health examinations, (2) medical benefits at public expense, (3) various allowances, and (4) welfare services such as consultation services, as well as health, medical and welfare services.
The Law concerning Relief to Atomic Bomb Survivors also allows the hibakusha living overseas, irrespective of their nationalities and origins, to apply for the Atomic Bomb Survivor’s Certificates, and stipulates other relief measures for them, such as the provision of medical expenses and various allowances.

In addition, based on its experience and knowledge as the only country to have ever suffered from atomic bombings during war, Japan has been actively providing assistance to countries affected by nuclear tests through the framework of Japan's Official Development Assistance, such as Grant Aid and Technical Cooperation. This also includes the development of medical equipment and the improvement of local medical care for the communities in Kazakhstan affected by the nuclear tests of the Soviet era.

Furthermore, local medical associations, universities, hospitals, research institutes and other related organizations such as the Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF), mainly based in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, have actively engaged in international cooperation including training and research studies related to radiation exposure, based on the experience and knowledge gained through our studies on the hibakusha.

Japan will continue to communicate and cooperate with the countries concerned on this issue.