

(Check Against Delivery)

Statement by Japanese Delegation
At the Meeting of the Fourth Committee
69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
On agenda item 48:
Effects of atomic radiation

24 October 2014

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for your Excellency's effective chairmanship at the Committee during the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly, in particular under this important agenda item "Effects of atomic radiation."

The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), to which Japan has been a founding member since 1955, plays a vital role in providing scientific assessments and reports on the effects of exposure to ionizing radiation. The work of the Committee helps us evaluate radiation risk and establish radiation protection and safety standards from which we all benefit.

As a country long committed itself to the safety of nuclear technology, particularly in light of the accident of 2011 at the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)'s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, we highly value the work of the Committee. In this regard, we commend and appreciate the publication in April of the 2013 Report "Sources, Effects and Risks of

Ionizing Radiation” and its annex “Levels and effects of radiation exposure due to the nuclear accident after the 2011 great east-Japan earthquake and tsunami”.

In September, we welcomed the visit of Mr. Carl-Magnus Larsson, Chair of UNSCEAR, and his team to Japan. In Fukushima, the visiting delegation held public dialogue events on their recent published report. The report indicated, among other points, that overall, cancer rates would remain stable following the accident. This report by UNSCEAR and their public dialogues were well received as they provided the findings based on scientific knowledge. They have also been useful in sharing the experiences and the lessons learnt with the international community.

Mr. Chairman,

These are just some of the examples of the vital role that UNSCEAR plays in the safety of nuclear energy. In recognition of their important role, Japan has and will continue to support the activities of UNSCEAR. In this context, we are pleased to inform you that in February of this year, the Government of Japan made a voluntary contribution totaling 863,000 USD to UNSCEAR.

By way of conclusion, I would like to reaffirm Japan’s continued commitment and support to the important work of UNSCEAR.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.