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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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JAPAN'S RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENT FROM A MEMBER AT THE SPS COMMITTEE MEETING ON 25 JUNE 2020 IN RELATION TO THE UPDATE ON THE SITUATION SURROUNDING JAPANESE FOOD AFTER THE TEPCO FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI NUCLEAR POWER STATION ACCIDENT ([G/SPS/GEN/1233/REV.2](#))

SUBMISSION BY JAPAN

The following communication, received on 6 August 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of [Japan](#).

This communication is being submitted in response to a Member's statement, in the SPS Committee meeting on 25 June 2020, about transparency in Japan's decision-making process on water management at the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (FDNPS).

1.1. Regarding the Advanced Liquid Processing System Treated Water (ALPS treated water) stored at the FDNPS, the Government of Japan has been explaining its efforts and response to the nuclear accident to the international community in a transparent manner, providing accurate information based on scientific evidence.

1.2. The Government of Japan continues to properly inform the international community, including neighboring countries, of the situation of the FDNPS based on scientific facts on occasions such as briefing sessions for diplomatic missions in Tokyo and relevant international conferences. For instance, the Government of Japan periodically issues general reports on the situation regarding decommissioning of the FDNPS and contaminated water management through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and informs all the diplomatic missions in Tokyo and the IAEA of the situation every month, in principle. The Government of Japan has held more than 100 briefing sessions for all diplomatic missions in Tokyo since the accident at the FDNPS.

1.3. At the FDNPS, TEPCO has successfully removed most of the nuclides (e.g. Cs-137, Sr-90), except for tritium, from this contaminated water generated in the buildings. It is treated water, not contaminated water, that is stored in tanks at the FDNPS.

1.4. It is an important precondition that even when ALPS treated water is discharged into the environment, the secondary treatment to remove radionuclides, except for tritium, will be appropriately carried out by TEPCO to meet the regulatory standards for discharging set by the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA), in compliance with the international standards described in the publications of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). As part of that precondition, the secondary treated water should be sufficiently diluted before being discharged into the environment to meet the regulatory standard for tritium, which is also set by the NRA in compliance with the international standards described in the publications of the ICRP.

1.5. The studies of exposure impact, based on the method of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), were presented in the Subcommittee on Handling of the ALPS Treated Water Report. According to this report, even if the total amount of the ALPS treated water stored in the tanks is to be disposed of every year by vapor release or by discharge into the sea, the radiation impact will be no more than one-thousandth of the impact of natural exposure in Japan (2.1 mSv/year).

1.6. As for the report of the Subcommittee on Handling of the ALPS Treated Water, the IAEA Review Team considers that the recommendations in the report made by the ALPS Subcommittee are based on a sufficiently comprehensive analysis and on a sound scientific and technical basis. Also, the IAEA Review Team considers the two options (namely, controlled vapor release and controlled discharges into the sea, the latter of which is routinely used by operating nuclear power plants and fuel cycle facilities in Japan and worldwide) selected out of the initial five options are technically feasible and would allow the timeline objective to be achieved.

1.7. Furthermore, the IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, on his visit to the FDNPS on February 26, 2020, pointed out that: 1) the efforts made in the FDNPS are systematic and meticulous; 2) the two disposal options (discharge into the sea and vapor release) are technically feasible and in line with the international practice; and 3) the support from the IAEA, such as radiation monitoring of the implementation, could help to provide reassurance to the public as any release of water would meet the international standards.

1.8. The Government of Japan will continue to explain its efforts and response to the nuclear accident to the international community in a transparent manner, providing accurate information based on the scientific evidence.

1.9. Thank you very much for your kind attention.
