

147th IPU Assembly General Debate

“Parliamentary action for peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16)”

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Leader of the Japanese delegation

I am Yoshitami Kameoka, leader of the Japanese delegation.

Strengthening the law that underlies SDG16 is a pillar of Japan’s foreign policy. Domestically, it is the foundation of a just and fair society, and internationally it serves as the basis of an international order that consists of friendly and equal relations among nations. Confidence in international law and the United Nations and other international organizations that underpin international law is indispensable to the stability of the international order. However, recently we have seen various developments and the spread of false information that undermine confidence in international organizations, thus threatening the international order.

I represent an electoral district in Fukushima in Japan’s Tohoku region. In pursuit of recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake and the nuclear power plant accident of 2011, in August of this year, Japan began releasing ALPS treated water from the nuclear power plant into the ocean. This water is repeatedly purified until it meets the regulatory standards for the release of radioactive materials into the environment. This action, which is essential to the true reconstruction of Fukushima, is being carried out in compliance with international standards and practices, while taking all available safety measures. In its comprehensive report, the IAEA concluded that the release of treated water would have negligible radiological impact on people and the environment. Data from post-release monitoring is published speedily and with a high degree of transparency. The reliability and safety of this data is objectively confirmed by independent investigations conducted by the IAEA.

While many countries have expressed their understanding, unfortunately, some others have not and have questioned the IAEA’s analysis. At times, we have seen the circulation of related misinformation. Japan shall continue to provide the international community with detailed explanations, while maintaining a high level of transparency. At the same time, to safeguard a broadly-based stable international order and friendly relations among nations, we believe it is necessary for all nations to positively cultivate confidence in scientific knowledge and the various international organizations.

Cultivating trust hinges on the provision of detailed explanations, dissemination of accurate information and open discussion. As a parliamentarian and member of the seat of debate and discussion, I firmly believe that the steady continuation of these efforts will strengthen trust in the

rule of law and related systems both at home and internationally, and will in turn contribute to the achievement of SDG16.

Thank you for your kind attention.