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ESTABLISHMENT OF NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONES ON THE BASIS  
OF ARRANGEMENTS FREELY ARRIVED AT AMONG THE STATES OF  
THE REGION CONCERNED

Working paper submitted by Japan

1. The decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament taken at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reaffirmed the conviction that the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, enhances global and regional peace and security. Japan shares that conviction.

2. Japan's long-held position on nuclear-weapon-free zones follows. In our view, the following conditions must be met for such zones to be effective:

(a) The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone should be supported by all countries concerned, including the nuclear-weapon States. Here, the Government of Japan would like to refer to the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, which states that the cooperation of all the nuclear-weapon States and their respect and support for the relevant protocols is necessary for the maximum effectiveness of such nuclear-weapon-free zones and the relevant protocols, and that the development of nuclear-weapon-free zones should be encouraged as a matter of priority, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region;

(b) The zone should in no way jeopardize the peace and safety of the region concerned or of the world as a whole;

(c) Appropriate safeguard measures, including inspection and verification, should be established in the zone;



(d) The zone should be in conformity with the principles of international law, including that of free navigation on the high seas.

3. When those conditions are met, Japan believes that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones can contribute to nuclear non-proliferation, thus strengthening the peace and safety not only of the regions concerned but of the international community as a whole. As stated in the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, the establishment of additional nuclear-weapon-free zones by the time of the Review Conference in the year 2000 would be welcome.

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