

THE STATEMENT TO THE ZENKO MEETING, 28-30 JULY 2017.

FROM: National Alliance of Anti-Nuclear Movements (NAAM)

We, the citizens of India, have serious concerns on the bilateral nuclear deal between India and Japan. We hereby state our opposition to the deal and urge the government of Japan not to embark on the deal considering the greater common good of nuclear free world.

We oppose the nuclear deal on these major grounds.

We should never repeat a catastrophic nuclear disaster like Fukushima anymore, anywhere in this world. Nuclear power poses a threat to life, livelihood and environment in several ways. This has already been demonstrated by the nuclear accident in Chernobyl and further established in Fukushima. After Fukushima, it has become obvious that any single nuclear accident can ruin people's life and environment. In India, people also suffer from uranium mining. Even without an accident, nuclear technology possesses inherent risks and inhuman characteristics. Once the accident happens, it is impossible to recover our lands. Some of us have been a witness to the sufferings of ordinary people of Japan victimized by Fukushima nuclear accident. We have seen people losing everything including their livelihood and reduced to being refugees in their own country. The resilience of Fukushima victims cannot be misread as their tacit acceptance of nuclear power. It is more about Japan's own tenacity to bounce back and stay grounded. For Japanese to continue to be resilient, nuclear power has to go. The inherent destructive nature of nuclear power is in direct contradiction to the inherent resilience of the Japanese. We therefore strongly urge the Japanese Prime Minister to stop promoting nuclear power.

it has also been established that nuclear power is not an ecologically sustainable energy source. Countries like India and Japan should explore the possibility of using renewable energy to cope with the energy demand and challenges of climate change. Indian government insists that nuclear technology is indispensable for energy security and stable energy supply. However, despite the enormous investment in nuclear power, only 2.3% of India's energy comes from nuclear sector. Nuclear energy is expensive and dangerous technology. We also have enormous potential in renewable energies that have remained largely untapped. We hence urge Japan to invest in renewable energy instead of nuclear power. This will immensely benefit both Japan and India to cope with the challenges of climate change and ecologically sustainable development.

We must stop nuclear power in order to achieve nuclear free world. Japan is the only country which has suffered from both nuclear weapons and nuclear accidents. And so Japan eminently qualifies to lead the world toward a nuclear free future. We, the people of India, strongly hope to achieve this goal with Japan.

We will always remain in solidarity with the victims of nuclear weapons and accidents, and victims of nuclear power. A nuclear deal between India and Japan will be an insult to all such victims in both Japan and India, besides helping spread the evil nuclear power.

India has a long history of people's struggle against nuclear power. Some people already have lost their land, others are suffering from radiation. Activists fighting against nuclear power are ruthlessly suppressed by authority. We wish the voices of ordinary Indian would reach the voices of people of Japan. Like victims of Fukushima and Hiroshima, we have been struggling against nuclear power.

We do hope you will understand our love for Japan and reciprocate by way of scrapping the deal in the best interests of ordinary people in both India and Japan.