## Chapter 2 Status of Measures Related to Nuclear Disasters Section 1 Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Systems

## 1-1 Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Systems in Ordinary Times

It is necessary for the entire government to work on and promote measures for nuclear emergency preparedness in an integrated manner, since the damage that could occur in the event of a nuclear emergency is enormous and widespread. For this reason, the "Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Council" has been established in the Cabinet as a body to promote government-wide nuclear emergency preparedness measures during ordinary times. The main role of the Council is to approve regional emergency response plans, which are confirmed to be concrete and reasonable in light of the Nuclear Disaster Risk Management Measures, by the Local Nuclear Disaster Management Councils of each region with the participation of the Cabinet Office, other relevant ministries and agencies, and relevant local governments. The Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Council is chaired by the Prime Minister, vice-chaired by the Chief Cabinet Secretary, the Minister of the Environment, the Minister of State for Nuclear Emergency Preparedness, and the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulation Authority, and the members are all Ministers of State and the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary for Crisis Management (FIG. 1-1-1).



Source: Cabinet Office data

## 1-2 Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Systems in an Emergency

In the unlikely event that a nuclear emergency occurs due to the release of a large amount of radioactive materials, a "Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters" will be established. The main role of the Headquarters is to understand the actual situation on the ground and the extent of damage, and to coordinate with relevant national and local government agencies in order to implement emergency response measures accurately and promptly in line with the situation. The Prime Minister is appointed as the head of the Headquarters, the Chief

Cabinet Secretary, the Minister of the Environment, the Minister of State for Nuclear Emergency Preparedness, the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulation Authority, and others as deputy head of the Headquarters, and all Ministers of State and the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary for Crisis Management as members of the Headquarters (FIG. 1-1-1).

The Nuclear Regulation Authority of Japan (NRA) will be primarily responsible for making decisions on technical and specialized matters, while the relevant ministries and agencies will handle the procurement of equipment and materials necessary to deal with nuclear facilities and off-site response in general, based on the instructions of the head of the Headquarters (i.e. the Prime Minister). The secretariat of the Headquarters will be provided by the Director-General for Nuclear Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, which was established on October 14, 2014.

As for complex disasters, in July 2015, the Basic Disaster Management Plan was revised to establish a coordinated system that enables the "Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters," which responds to natural disasters, and the "Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters," which responds to nuclear disasters, to collect information, make decisions, and provide instructions and coordination in an integrated manner for strengthening the system to respond complex disasters. (FIG. 1-2-1, FIG. 1-2-2).

The "Comprehensive Nuclear Emergency Response Exercise for FY 2020," which was scheduled to be held in early February, was postponed due to the state of emergency declaration due to COVID-19.



Source: Cabinet Office data



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