



OPCW

Executive Council

100th Session
5 – 7 July 2022

EC-100/NAT.40
5 July 2022
ENGLISH only

JAPAN

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HORINOUCI HIDEHISA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN TO THE OPCW
AT THE 100TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

Let me congratulate H.E. Ambassador Ziad M.D. Al Atiyah on your new role as Chairperson of this Council. We look forward to working closely with you and the Vice-Chairpersons. I would also like to thank the Director-General for his opening statement.

Mr Chairperson, Russia's aggression against Ukraine poses a serious challenge to the rule-based international order enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention). We find it intolerable that the possible use of weapons of mass destruction which includes chemical weapons, becomes an issue of concern and this makes for a volatile security environment. I leave further comment on this to a joint statement to be delivered under Agenda Item 6(f).

It must be made clear that any use of chemical weapons can never be tolerated under any circumstances and that there must be no impunity for those responsible. In this regard, I would like to touch upon two issues.

With regard to the two incidents in Syria as identified in the reports of the Fact-Finding Mission, we look forward to further investigations. Japan continues to urge Syria to address all outstanding issues by ensuring accountability for the incidents in which the use of chemical weapons was confirmed, in order to lift the measures adopted at the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Japan hopes that the poisoning of the Russian national, Mr Alexei Navalny, with a chemical nerve agent of the novichok group will be promptly clarified between the Technical Secretariat (the Secretariat) and the States Parties concerned including the Russian Federation on whose territory the attack took place.

Japan continues to undertake every effort for—and commits itself firmly to—the abandoned chemical weapons (ACW) destruction project in China. Japan, in fact, has collected approximately 90,000 items and completed the destruction of about 60,000 of them. Japan has already spent approximately EUR 2.6 billion from its own account. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had been forced to postpone all the destruction activities of ACW from



April 2020 onwards. However, the operations in Haerbaling were resumed in 2021 where large-scale controlled detonation chambers will be operational this year. The destruction operations in Harbin and the excavation and recovery operations in other sites have also been resumed as of June 2022. Japan is in close communication with China on how the destruction plan should progress as the current plan will expire at the end of 2022.

Preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons and the proliferation of toxic chemicals, including those by non-State actors, is integral to international peace and security. In this regard, in addition to the promotion of universality, it is important to effectively assist States Parties in progressing their national implementation. In light of the current challenging economic environment, Japan urges the Secretariat to consider and improve a framework to ensure more effective and efficient use of resources.

Mr Chairperson, Japan is pleased to see the resumption of the industry inspection in our country following the relaxation of COVID-19 border controls.

During the course of the ever-changing security environment and developments in science and technology, it is imperative to jointly tackle the threat posed by the use of chemical weapons. In this respect, Japan will continue to actively contribute to the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference in our capacity as one of the Vice-Chairpersons. Thank you.

--- 0 ---