



JAPAN

Statement

by

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Mr Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

First of all, please allow me to start by assuring you, Executive Council Chairperson Ambassador Ziad M.D. Al Atiyah, of the support from the Japanese delegation during this session. Also, let me express my gratitude to Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias, the Vice-Chairpersons of the Council, for the respective report.

Since this is my first time to attend a Council session, I look forward to closely working with the members of the Council including the Chairperson, and the Technical Secretariat including the Director-General, as had been done by my predecessor, Hidehisa Horinouchi.

Mr Chairperson,

Japan reiterates that any use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone under any circumstances is unacceptable and that those responsible must be held accountable.

Japan welcomes the third report of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) focusing on the Douma incident for which the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) had determined that 43 individuals, including women and children, lost their lives and dozens more were affected in the horrific chemical weapons attack. The IIT report concluded that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Syrian Arab Air Force perpetrated the attacks. Japan condemns the Syrian Government's use of chemical weapons, as concluded by the report. We commend the professional, impartial and independent work conducted by the Technical Secretariat, which came to their conclusions through scientifically analyzing the vast amounts of information and considering all possible scenarios. We strongly oppose any attempt to undermine their invaluable work.

Japan urges Syria to take the decisions made by the ninety-fourth session of the Executive Council and the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the States Parties seriously. We ask Syria once again to ensure accountability for the incidents in which the use of chemical weapons were confirmed through full cooperation with the Technical Secretariat including addressing all outstanding issues identified by the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT).

Regarding the poisoning of Mr Alexei Navalny, Japan urges the States Parties concerned, particularly Russia, to cooperate for the prompt clarification of this case of chemical weapons use.

The possible use or threat of the use of chemical weapons in Ukraine is of grave concern. In this regard, Japan welcomes the Technical Secretariat's efforts to closely monitor the situation in Ukraine and to provide assistance and protection to Ukraine, since these activities serve for rapid protective measures and fact-finding in response to any case of an incident involving chemical warfare agents or toxic industrial chemicals.

Mr Chairperson,

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 98,000 items and completed the destruction of about 66,000 of them. Japan provides all necessary finances, technology, experts, facilities as well as other resources for the purpose of destroying the ACWs, and as of 31 March 2022, Japan has already spent approximately 3.1 billion euro in total from its own account. Japan has allocated the largest budget to date (approximately 488 million euro) in the fiscal year of 2022 that will end at the end of March.

In Haerbaling, the Haerbaling Large Chambers (HLCs) started their operation last October. The excavation and recovery operations in Harbin and other sites as well have been steadily implemented. Japan

makes the best possible efforts towards the completion of the destruction of ACWs as early as possible while appreciating the appropriate cooperation with China in accordance with the destruction plan beyond the year 2022 as adopted at the 101st Session of the Executive Council. Japan expects to make steady progress in various projects by accelerating the destruction operation with the cooperation of China based on the abovementioned plan.

Mr. Chairperson

Effective and efficient industrial inspections are of the importance among the discussions of the implementation of the CWC. Japan will be actively participating in the discussions at the OEWG-RC and the industrial clusters in order to consider concrete measures for effective and efficient industrial inspections.

Mr Chairperson,

The Centre for Chemistry and Technology (CCT) is scheduled to open in May and Japan hopes, as a major donor for its establishment, that the CCT will play a major role in the future. Furthermore, the Fifth Review Conference is scheduled for the same month, and in order to effectively deal with the threat of the use of chemical weapons amidst changes in the security environment and advances in science and technology, we will actively contribute to the discussions in order to achieve outcomes widely accepted among the States Parties at the Review Conference.