



JAPAN

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP AGAINST THE
SPREAD OF WEAPONS AND MATERIALS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF JAPAN TO THE OPCW AT THE FIFTH
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO
REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

This is a statement of the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (Global Partnership) on behalf of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and the European Union.

On behalf of the Global Partnership, I would like to commend you, H.E. Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast, for your chairmanship of the Fifth Review Conference and to thank H.E. Ambassador Kuusing for leading deliberations over the course of the preparatory process. Please be assured that all members of the Global Partnership will fully support you to make this conference a success and strengthen the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Last year marked the twentieth anniversary of the Global Partnership—an initiative started at the Kananaskis Summit in Canada in June 2002 to prevent terrorists, and those that harbour them, from acquiring and using weapons of mass destruction. The G7-led Global Partnership has grown to include 30 member countries and the European Union, and has proven itself to be the primary international programmatic mechanism for countering threats posed by chemical and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD). For more than two decades, members of the Global Partnership have contributed significant financial and technical resources to address a diverse range of chemical weapons-related threats around the world. Our efforts have included substantial assistance for the destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles in Russia, Libya, and Syria, sustained support for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and capacity building for chemical security and chemical weapons non-proliferation all over the world.

However, despite our efforts, the use of chemical weapons is still a real threat to international peace and security, as we have seen in recent years in Iraq, Malaysia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Russian Federation. The Global Partnership community reiterates that any use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, and under any circumstances is unacceptable and that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be held accountable. In this regard, we welcome the third report of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT), which concluded that there are



reasonable grounds to believe that the Syrian Arab Air Force perpetrated the attacks. There must be no impunity for the use of chemical weapons.

The Global Partnership members also stand united in our support for Ukraine against Russia's unjustified and illegal invasion. Russia's irresponsible and sustained attacks against civilian and chemical infrastructure in Ukraine, continues to increase the danger of an accidental chemical release. We urgently call upon Russia to stop immediately its ongoing and unprovoked aggression against Ukraine.

In the face of these challenges, the Global Partnership remains at the forefront of international efforts to reduce the risk from chemical weapons threats. The Global Partnership is unwavering in its commitment to counter and prevent the use of chemical weapons and uphold its international obligation against chemical weapons development, production, acquisition, and use. We also reiterate our support for the full and effective implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 as a key mechanism for combatting chemical terrorism.

The Global Partnership's strength is rooted in its actions. Since the last Review Conference, Global Partnership members have made a broad range of meaningful contributions to mitigate chemical weapons threats and to strengthen and support the work of the OPCW. As will be outlined in greater detail by Canada later this week, over the past five years the Global Partnership partners have delivered more than USD 282 million (or EUR 271 million) in programming to prevent, detect and respond to chemical weapons, proliferation and terrorism threats. One example that showcases the strength of collective action and commitment amongst Global Partnership members is the OPCW's new Centre for Chemistry and Technology, which was inaugurated last week. Recognising that the new Centre will help to ensure that the OPCW remains fit for purpose and equipped to keep pace with emerging chemical weapons threats, Global Partnership members provided nearly 98% of the total funding for the facility's construction.

While proud of our past contributions, Global Partnership members are focused on the future. In this regard, at the most recent Chemical Security Working Group (CSWG) meeting held in Tokyo in March, Global Partnership members discussed ongoing and future programming to mitigate chemical weapons and terrorism threat, including cooperation with the OPCW. Global Partnership members continue to provide substantial financial and technical support to the OPCW so that it remains prepared to respond to emerging chemical weapons use and destruction.

We also reaffirm our commitment to gender equality in the creation and delivery of our programmatic activities. We commit to raise awareness to the gender-related impact of chemical threats and to mainstream adequate responses in the formulation of our threat reduction activities.

We call upon other Chemical Weapons Convention States Parties to join us in helping at-risk partner countries enhance their capabilities to prevent, detect, and respond effectively to the use or threat of use of chemical weapons. For our part, members of the Global Partnership reiterate our ongoing commitment to combat chemical weapons threats, enhance chemical security, and improve coordination of chemical security threat reduction programmes and activities across the globe, in partnership with the OPCW Technical Secretariat and other States Parties.