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Delegation of Japan

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at

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the OPCW

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Mr. Chairman, Director-General, Your Excellencies, and distinguished delegates,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate Your Excellency Ambassador Alfonso Dastis of Spain on your election as Chairman of the Conference of the States Parties. I am confident that the Conference will be most successful under your strong leadership and experienced diplomatic skills. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation for your efforts to ensure the success of the Conference. I also wish to warmly welcome His Excellency Ambassador Carlos Mora to the Chair of the Committee of the Whole.

I would also like to express our sincere appreciation to His Excellency Ambassador Jose Antonio Arrospide Del Busto of Peru, Chairman of the Tenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, for his excellent leadership.

My sincere appreciation will equally be delivered to Her Excellency Ambassador Hlengiwe Buhle Mkhize of the Republic of South Africa, Chairman of the Executive Council, for her leadership and efforts for the success of the Executive Council.

Mr. Chairman,

The Chemical Weapons Convention is the first disarmament and non-proliferation treaty in the history of mankind which aims at elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. Keenly aware of the uniqueness of the Convention and the expectations of the international community, Japan wishes to reiterate its commitment to the goal of the Convention and we promise that we will continue to make our efforts to make this organization a leading model for the disarmament and non-proliferation regimes of the world.

In this connection, I would like to underline the following five points: namely, universality, implementation, capacity building, counter-terrorism and budget.

Mr. Chairman,

My first point comes to Universality. We should make our utmost efforts on universal renunciation of chemical weapons. This year has been a good year for all of us as we have already achieved and exceeded the target number of 180 States Parties set by the decision adopted by the Tenth Session of the Conference of States Parties. Japan welcomes the Republic of Djibouti, Haiti, Liberia, Comoros, the Central African Republic and Montenegro who have joined the Convention as States Parties since the last session of the Conference, which made the total number of States Parties 181. We must keep this momentum. Japan also welcomes the intention of Iraq and Lebanon to join the Convention and encourages the both countries to prepare for its accession to the Convention as soon as possible.

As we approach towards the 10-year Anniversary of the Convention after its entry into force, Japan urges all the remaining States not Party including Israel, Egypt, Syria, Myanmar, and DPRK to join the Convention immediately.

Mr. Chairman,

My second point is the full implementation of the obligations under the Convention. It is an important means of fighting proliferation and chemical terrorism. We have witnessed a fair improvement of the implementation of Article VII obligations since the adoption of the Plan of Action. It is noteworthy that only 33% of the States Parties implemented the necessary legislation covering all the key areas for enforcement of the Convention at the previous session of CSP, but the implementation rate has now increased to 40% to report to this Session. This is a very encouraging sign. It reflects the fact that those States Parties are seriously engaged in fulfilling article VII obligations. Those States Parties which have not notified should notify the OPCW on the steps they have taken to enact legislation and adopt administrative measures to implement the Convention in accordance with the relevant Conference decisions.

My third point, Mr. Chairman, is very much related to the issues of universality and implementation. Promotion of universality and implementation needs to be supported by technical assistance. Without

national capability to implement the obligations under the Convention, States not Party may feel unenthusiastic in joining the Convention and implement them. It is worth noting that a significant number of States Parties that have not enacted its national legislation have been seeking advice and assistance from the Secretariat.

In this connection, I would like to call upon the States Parties and the Secretariat to intensify their efforts in following up the Plan of Action regarding the Article VII obligations, and create conducive environment. On our part, Japan is ready to provide legal and technical assistance for national legislation in cooperation with the Secretariat as we did in Brunei, Cambodia and Iraq in the past. We also very much look forward to having a joint seminar with Australia in Indonesia next year.

I would also like to reiterate Japan's firm commitment to the international cooperation programs which contribute to capacity building of States Parties in the course of implementing the Convention. In this regard, Japan has been supporting the Associate Program through voluntary contributions for the last three years and received trainees. Japan is of the view that the Associate Program provides the participants with opportunities to learn the effective implementation of the industry-related provisions of the Convention as well as to learn the practices of modern chemical industry through on-site industrial training. We find the results satisfactory.

Mr. Chairman,

My previous points mentioned will all converge to this fourth point, i.e., the importance of national implementation in preventing terrorist activities. Japan enacted the "Chemical Weapons Prohibition Law" which prohibits the use, production, and transfer of chemical weapons and their materials by penal provisions, just before the ratification of the Convention in 1995. Were this Law enacted and implemented well before the sarin gas attacks on the Tokyo Subway, we could have had controlled the terrorist attacks more rigorously. In the aftermath of the sarin gas terrorist attacks, Japan also implemented the law specifically targeting prevention of terrorist attacks using sarin and other toxic chemicals. It also specifies measures to

be taken by security officials when injury by sarin and other toxic chemicals has occurred or is likely to occur. What these experiences suggest is that if national laws and regulations prohibiting the use, production, and transfer of chemical weapons and related materials are to be implemented on a global basis, world-wide counter-terrorism measures will be formulated, and CWC would be in a pivotal position in discharging its responsibility in the global fight against terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

My last point comes to budget. It is a budget that makes CWC's implementation possible. Japan welcomes the efforts made by the Director-General on the draft program and budget for 2007 with zero nominal growth. We encourage the Secretariat to continue to explore cost-saving measures in carrying out its activities. Another important issue would be the efficient and effective resource allocation. Indeed, within the given resources, efficient and effective resource allocations would make the program activities more viable and accountable. It is a budget that makes realistic assessments about the program of work, including increases in both chemical weapons destruction monitoring and inspections of industrial facilities.

Intensive negotiations on the issues of resource allocations on the inspections are still in progress in the draft decision on budget. Japan sincerely hopes that reasonably agreeable point will be found without delay among parties concerned.

I would also like to point out that for the sake of effective budget utilization and inspections, the issue of OCPF site selection methodology and the issue of late submission need to be solved in a prompt manner. Japan urges the fellow States Parties negotiating these issues to be more flexible and constructive in a spirit of cooperation so as to reach consensus in the near future.

Mr. Chairman,

The goal of the Convention will never be achieved without eliminating

the existing Chemical Weapons stockpiles in the declared Possessor States. We expect full compliance of credible verification activities by all Possessor States. Japan would also like to commend the efforts made by the Secretariat in seeking optimization of the verification activities.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan has been making utmost efforts to destruct abandoned chemical weapons in close cooperation with China, hoping that a negative memory in the past would be transformed into a good model of Japan-China cooperation for the future.

In this context, Japan has been conducting excavation and recovery work in China. This year, Japan dispatched 4 on-site investigation mission teams and 5 excavation and recovery mission teams in various areas in China. We have so far recovered more than 1700 projectiles. As this demonstrates, Japan is seriously committed to complete the destruction of ACWs and has been making efforts to accelerate the process. Japan also had 2 trilateral meetings with China and the Secretariat this year.

We will continue our utmost efforts to dispose of the ACWs in China in close cooperation with Chinese authorities and the Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman,

Industry verification regime is one of the important tools for the OPCW. Japan recognizes that a significant number of discrepancies in the declaration of transfer data provided by the States Parties is a great concern in light of the objective of the Convention, due to the lack of common understanding on the definitions of import and export among the States Parties. We all need to make efforts in solving this issue.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude my remarks, I would like to reiterate that Japan remains committed to the goal of the Convention: a world free from chemical

weapons. Japan is determined to make every possible effort to promote universality and full implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.