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Delegation of Japan

**Statement by Mr. Masanori Nishi
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and
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at

**the Thirteenth Session of the Conference of States Parties
of
the OPCW**

**The Hague, The Netherlands
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Mr. Chairman, Director-General, Your Excellencies, and distinguished delegates,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate Your Excellency Ambassador Minoru Shibuya of Japan 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 the Japanese 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 Dani of Algeria to the Chair of the Committee of the Whole.

My sincere appreciation will equally be delivered to Her Excellency Mrs Oksana Tomova of the Slovak Republic, 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. We are all aware that the primary objective and the purpose of the Convention is to eliminate the chemical weapons and reduce the risk of their proliferation. In this connection, I would like to congratulate the completion by A State Party of the destruction of its entire chemical weapons stockpile this July. This was yet another significant achievement and progress made after Albania by A State Party for the realization of the object and purpose of the Convention. We also welcome the significant progress made on Chemical Weapons destruction by other possessor states during the year.

Mr. Chairman,

Along with the progressive implementation of the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles by possessor states, it

would be logical to envisage the possible future orientation of the OPCW activities, as presented by the Director General in his report issued on 27 November 2007, with its emphasis shifting from being mainly a disarmament organization to being primarily a non-proliferation organization, attaching great importance to Universality and National Implementation. Japan has been supporting this approach. Those two major activities need to be supported by International Cooperation and Assistance. And, in our view, assistance activities under this Convention could be meaningful only on the understanding that they contribute to strengthening the disarmament and non-proliferation regimes of the world. Bearing this conceptual understanding in mind, I would like to underline the following four points: namely, universality, national implementation, capacity building with particular emphasis on ensuring safe and secure operation of chemical production, and budget.

Mr. Chairman,

Complete exclusion of the possibility of the use of chemical weapons cannot be achieved without universal adherence to the CWC. Japan notes with satisfaction the progress towards achieving the universality of the Convention, resulting in a total of 185 States Parties, and welcomes the recent ratification of the CWC by Lebanon. It is expected that some more countries will join the Convention very soon. The more successful we are, the more difficult it becomes to make further progress on universality since the remaining States not Parties are more hardcore countries. Nevertheless, we must keep this momentum.

Mr. Chairman,

My second point is the full implementation of the Article VII obligations under the Convention. Even if we were to achieve universal membership, without effective national implementation of the Convention by all States Parties, the goal of the complete exclusion of the possibility of the use of chemical weapons would

still be out of sight. It is an important means of fighting against proliferation and chemical terrorism. While we have witnessed a fair improvement since the adoption of the Plan of Action, more progress needs to be made. It is a source of concern to the Japanese delegation that more than half of all States Parties have not yet been able to enact comprehensive legislation. In this connection, those States Parties 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.

Mr. Chairman,

My third point is the International Cooperation and Assistance activities. Promotion of universality and national implementation needs to be supported by technical assistance. Without national capability to implement the obligations under the Convention, States not yet Party may feel unenthusiastic about

joining the Convention and implementing 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, Iraq, Cambodia, Indonesia and, the Philippines. We will soon have a workshop in Laos in cooperation with the Republic of Korea and the Technical Secretariat.

Apart from assistance to universality and national implementation, the report issued by the Director-General on 27 November 2007 suggested the possible themes for International

Cooperation in the areas for ensuring safe and secure operation of chemical production, transportation, and storage facilities. These are very important areas where the practical effect and impact of assistance on the safety of chemical industries can be perceived experientially. The Government of Japan fully agrees with the views expressed by the Director-General. As a matter of fact, Japanese chemical industries have provided opportunities for Associate Programme trainees to be exposed to operational environment of chemical substances control, industry safety management, emissions reduction and other environmental management activities. It is also very important for the prevention of and response to chemical disasters that State Parties share the best of their relevant prevention and response measures. The Japan's national position paper submitted to the Second Review Conference proposed this idea and requested the Secretariat to consider providing an appropriate forum in this respect.

Recognizing the importance of safe and secure operation of

chemical production, transportation, and storage facilities, and also the expertise the OPCW possesses, Japan and other G8 members expect contribution to the G8 Global Partnership for prevention of WMD and related material with a view to sensitizing the matter in a wider international cooperation framework.

Mr. Chairman,

My final point comes to budget. In an effort to reinforce the non-proliferation regime of the Convention, it is important to have an efficient and effective organizational structure of the Technical Secretariat by constantly reviewing the human and financial resource allocation, using a scrap-and-build approach, adjusting with the shifting focus of the activities.

Indeed, within the given resources, efficient and effective resource allocations would make the program activities more viable and accountable. In this connection, Japan welcomes the efforts made by the Director-General to prepare the draft program

and budget for 2009 with zero nominal growth, for four consecutive years. We encourage the Secretariat to continue to explore cost-saving measures in carrying out its activities.

Mr. Chairman,

Along with disarmament, non-proliferation and other important aspects of the Convention, Japan continues to attach top priority to the destruction of Japanese abandoned chemical weapons in China.

In order to expedite the destruction of some 45 thousand ACWs already recovered and stored in different locations, Japan decided to introduce mobile destruction facilities and announced the bidding to procure the unit on November 14. If the bidding is successful and other preparations go smoothly, Japan expects that the mobile destruction facilities will start operations in Nanjing by early 2010.

As regards to the ACWs still buried in Haerba-ling, Japan and China are making final preparations to start trial excavation in the second week of this month. The trial excavation is designed to collect more detailed information on the types, numbers and conditions of the buried ACWs with a view to allowing for better planning for the excavation, recovery and destruction of what are considered to be the largest concentrations of ACWs in this remote, mountainous location in China's northeast.

In undertaking these and other ACW-related activities, Japan appreciates and continues to count on China's cooperation as well as the facilitative roles played by States Parties and the Technical Secretariat for the sake of the early destruction of the ACWs according to the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude my remarks, I would like to reiterate Japan's unswerving commitment to the realization of the goal of the Convention: a world free of chemical weapons. For that end,

Japan will spare no effort to promote universality and full implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention among the international community.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.