



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Fourteenth Session
30 November – 4 December 2009

C-14/NAT.10
30 November 2009
Original: ENGLISH

JAPAN

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR MINORU SHIBUYA,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN TO THE OPCW, AT THE
FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,
Director-General,

Let me begin by congratulating Your Excellency Ambassador Vaidotas Verba on your election as Chairperson of this session 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 our delegation's full support and cooperation.

I also wish to extend our delegation's warm welcome to His Excellency Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry to the Chair of the Committee of the Whole.

I would also take this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Jorge Lomónaco Tonda, and Her Excellency Ambassador Oksana Tomová, for their excellent work as Chairpersons of the Executive Council during the course of this year.

Mr Chairperson,

Since the end of the last session of the Conference of the States Parties, much progress has been made for the realisation of the objective and purpose of the Convention. I would like to underscore the four countries which have newly become Member States to the Convention and to extend my delegation's warm welcome to them.

With the advance of universality, it is becoming increasingly difficult to induce the remaining States not Parties to join the Convention. However, for the purpose of complete elimination and non-proliferation of chemical weapons, our efforts to accomplish universality should be sustained.

Mr Chairperson,

National implementation of the Convention by all States Parties is another pillar for the realisation of the object and purpose of the Convention. In this regard, we welcome the report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of Article VII. It helps us to recognise to what extent we have achieved and how much is left for us to work on.



Through this report, we could see that much progress has been made, especially in designating or establishing National Authorities. However, more progress needs to be made. I encourage those States Parties that have not implemented fully Article VII of the Convention to do so as soon as possible.

Mr Chairperson,

Taking into consideration the increasing threat of terrorism, along with the complexity and rapid changes as a result of recent dramatic developments in the chemical industry, there is an increasing risk of intentional misuse of chemical substances by non-State actors as well as an accidental chemical disaster. In order to prevent these chemical crises in facilities, I believe it is useful to share among States Parties the best practices on how to prevent and how to react to such chemical disasters through the international cooperation activities of the Organisation.

It is from this viewpoint that Japan co-organised with the Technical Secretariat the seminar on chemical process safety management and chemical security this month in Tokyo. During this seminar, active discussions were held on chemical management by gaining the participation of experts from various communities including the Japanese chemical industry. We shared the best practices of major Japanese chemical companies accumulated through their daily efforts for effective safety management.

I believe that this seminar was the first attempt at shedding light on the issue of chemical process safety and security by the Organisation and ourselves and marked a significant step forward. It is our hope that other States Parties will start focusing on this issue based on the outcome reached by this seminar and further advance the fruitful discussions.

Mr Chairperson,

Another important task is the adoption of the 2010 Programme and Budget. As you might recall, Japan has always been in favour of an effective and efficient Organisation. In this context, we welcome the draft Programme and Budget for 2010 prepared by the Technical Secretariat and adopted by the last Executive Council, which is, in our delegation's view, balanced and effective with zero nominal growth.

I congratulate the Technical Secretariat for their excellent work and encourage continued efforts for the utmost use of the limited resources by constantly reviewing the human and financial resource allocation, using a scrap-and-build approach, along with the changing environment of the Organisation.

Mr Chairperson,

During the course of the industry cluster meetings this year, we also made significant progress. Namely, during the Fifty-Eighth Session of the Executive Council, we have finally reached a consensus after having made many compromises on the issue of low concentration threshold for Schedule 2A/2A* chemicals, which had been discussed for almost 10 years.

Thus, we now need to address more on other industry cluster issues, above all the OCPF inspection issue. We still have a lot of issues to resolve including improvement of OCPF site selection for inspection of sites more relevant to the object and purpose of the Convention. It is the view of our delegation that the industry cluster issues should be discussed in a balanced manner in close cooperation with the chemical industry.

Mr Chairperson,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation and respect to the Director-General, Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter. Since 2002, under his able leadership, we have achieved much progress in implementing the object and purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention. I congratulate, with appreciation, all the contributions and the achievements that the Director-General, Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, has made during the course of his term. I assure you of my delegation's fullest and continuous support and cooperation during the rest of his term.

In its last session, the Executive Council reached a consensus on the appointment of the new Director-General and recommended Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü as the new Director-General to this Conference. I would like to extend my respect and appreciation to His Excellency Ambassador Jorge Lomónaco Tonda, Chairperson of the Executive Council, for his experienced leadership and diplomatic skill which guided us toward reaching the consensus. I am confident that this Conference would appoint the new Director-General by consensus as recommended by the Executive Council.

Mr Chairperson,

Destruction of Japanese abandoned chemical weapons in China continues to be assigned the highest priority in the light of its importance in the Convention.

Japan has recovered and stored about 2,000 ACWs in the past 12 months in different locations for the sake of safety of the Chinese people as well as protection of the environment. With this progress, the total number reached some 47,000.

With regard to the mobile destruction facilities to be deployed at Nanjing, Japan has completed the manufacture of all components for these facilities. In December the bidding process for their shipping and assembling will follow. If the preparations go smoothly, Japan expects that the destruction of the first ACW will take place in the spring of 2010, which is of symbolic significance for Japan, after having made utmost efforts to address this issue with sincerity in accordance with the Convention.

As for the biggest burial site of ACWs in Haerba-ling, during the course of this year, efforts are concentrated on building more durable infrastructures including roads to transport munitions, preparing the land around burial pits as well as conducting a survey using ground-penetrating radar to obtain a more accurate estimate of the burial condition of ACWs in Haerba-ling.

With the indispensable cooperation of the Chinese Government, Japan would like to continue to make sincere efforts for the early destruction of ACWs.

Mr Chairperson,

We have a lot of issues to work through during this Conference. I look forward to reaching a fruitful outcome through this important Conference with your strong leadership.

I thank you, Mr Chairperson.