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REPORT ON THE PROGRESS TOWARDS THE COMPLETION OF DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS ABANDONED BY JAPAN IN CHINA

In accordance with paragraph 28 of Part IV(A) of the Verification Annex to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and pursuant to the relevant decision (EC-67/DEC.6) of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the progress achieved, during the period from 12 July to 30 September 2013, towards the complete destruction of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China (hereinafter “Japanese ACWs”) is hereby reported as follows:

1. Destruction of Japanese ACWs

- 1.1 To date, Japanese ACWs have been discovered on the territory of China at over 90 locations in 17 provinces (municipalities, autonomous regions). The number of Japanese ACW items already recovered stands approximately at 50,000, of which 37,073 items will have been destroyed as at 30 September.
- 1.2 The largest burial site of Japanese ACWs ever discovered is located at Haerbaling, Jilin Province. It is estimated that over 330,000 items of Japanese ACWs are buried there.
- 1.3 It must be pointed out that, owing to a lack of relevant information, it is difficult to make an accurate assessment of Japanese ACWs in terms of specific numbers and burial locations. Many of those Japanese ACWs are corroded and leaky, causing incidents of human injury from time to time.

2. Status of the operational destruction facilities

2.1 The mobile destruction facility in Nanjing

- (a) On 11 June 2012, the mobile destruction facility in Nanjing concluded its destruction operations, with a total of 35,681 items of Japanese ACWs destroyed. In October 2012, the facility started the process for the treatment of the waste resulting from the destruction operations. On 28 August 2013, the second stage of waste treatment operations at the facility came to a smooth conclusion, bringing about the full conclusion of all destruction operations in Nanjing.



- (b) According to the destruction plan jointly submitted to the Council by China and Japan, after the conclusion of the destruction operations in Nanjing, the destruction equipment will be redeployed, first in Wuhan and then in Guangzhou, for the destruction of Japanese ACWs stored in those places and in their vicinity.

2.2 The mobile destruction facility in Shijiazhuang

- (a) From 12 to 14 December 2012, the mobile destruction facility in Shijiazhuang officially started operations and destroyed 250 items of Japanese ACWs. The facility then entered a period of winter maintenance. The second stage of operations in the Shijiazhuang facility started on 6 May 2013 and concluded on 9 July 2013, with a total of 1,142 items of Japanese ACWs destroyed. It is planned that in 2014, Japanese ACWs stored in the city's vicinity will be transferred to Shijiazhuang for destruction.
- (b) According to the destruction plan jointly submitted to the Council by China and Japan, after the conclusion of the destruction operations in Shijiazhuang, the destruction equipment will be redeployed in Harbin, for the destruction of Japanese ACWs stored there and in its vicinity.

3. Status of destruction facilities under construction

3.1 The Haerbaling destruction facilities

- (a) The equipment for the destruction of Japanese ACWs at Haerbaling has been shipped to China. Preparations have been completed for the construction of the destruction facilities to start towards the end of September. Completion of construction and start of destruction operations are expected next year.
- (b) As Haerbaling is the largest burial site of Japanese ACWs discovered so far, an early start to the destruction operations there will have a decisive significance for the acceleration of the overall process of Japanese ACW destruction. Viewed against the destruction plan drawn up by China and Japan at the beginning of 2012, the pace of construction work for the Haerbaling destruction project has already fallen obviously behind schedule.

3.2 Other destruction sites

As regards the Japanese ACW destruction operations with a mobile facility in Wuhan, construction of the facility started in August and destruction operations are to start upon the completion of construction and trial operations. As for the destruction operations with a mobile facility in Harbin, China and Japan have completed the preliminary preparations such as a local conditions survey, a topographic study, and a geologic survey, and plan to finalise the blueprint and other related work by the end of March 2014. Operations in Guangzhou will be planned depending on the progress of operations in Wuhan.

4. Bilateral excavation and recovery operations

- 4.1 From 28 July to 13 August 2013, China assisted Japan in an excavation and recovery operation in Ying'an Forestry Farm, Hunchun City, Jilin Province, with a total of 66 items of Japanese ACWs excavated and recovered. A second operation started on 30 August 2013 and is scheduled to conclude on 23 September.
- 4.2 From 22 to 25 August 2013, China assisted Japan in a trial excavation operation at the Japanese ACW burial site in Tianma Co., Dunhua City, Jilin Province, with 2 items identified as Japanese ACWs and recovered.

5. OPCW inspection and visit by Council delegation

- 5.1 During the reporting period, the OPCW conducted an inspection of the excavation and recovery operation in Hunchun.
- 5.2 For enhanced transparency in the Japanese ACW destruction projects, China and Japan jointly extended an invitation at the Seventy-Second Session of the Council for an OPCW Council delegation to visit Japanese ACW destruction facilities to obtain first-hand knowledge of the progress being made. Following a joint letter of invitation on 20 June from China and Japan addressed to the Chairperson of the Council, a delegation of the Council paid a transparency visit to the Haerbaling ACW site from 9 to 13 September.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Nearly 70 years after Japan's war of aggression against China and 16 years since the entry into force of the Convention, the large quantities of Japanese ACWs which Japan had abandoned in China are still, from time to time, causing human casualties and environmental damage. The destruction of Japanese ACWs relates directly to the realisation of the core objective of the Convention. China expresses its regret over Japan's failure to complete the destruction of Japanese ACWs by the deadline prescribed by the Convention and the relevant Council decision (EC-46/DEC.4).
- 6.2 At the same time, with a pragmatic, cooperative and constructive approach, China has reached agreement with Japan on multilateral and bilateral arrangements for the future destruction of Japanese ACWs. As a result, the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session adopted a decision on the future destruction of Japanese ACWs (EC-67/DEC.6) and the destruction plan jointly submitted by China and Japan. A new Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of China and Japan has also been concluded. Japan has undertaken to make its fullest efforts with a view to completing the destruction of Japanese ACWs already identified and declared to the OPCW within the year 2016 and to completing the destruction of all such weapons, including those at Haerbaling, within the year 2022.
- 6.3 Regrettably, what happens now is that the pace of work has again noticeably fallen behind schedule in meeting the timelines of the destruction plan mentioned above. If this situation continues, it will be extremely difficult to achieve the objective as pledged by Japan. China urges Japan to implement in good faith the provisions of the relevant Council decision and the MOU between the two Governments and increase

its input with a view to completing the destruction at the earliest within the timeframe established by the destruction plan. Meanwhile, China calls upon the policy-making organs and the Secretariat of the OPCW to continue supervising and facilitating the destruction process.

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