



OPCW

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JAPAN

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MASARU TSUJI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN TO THE OPCW
AT THE THIRTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Given the seriousness of the situation, and with full regard to the views expressed by many previous speakers, we fully share the strong concerns over the delay in the removal of priority chemicals out of the Syrian Arab Republic. It is important for the international community to cooperate in destroying the chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic in accordance with the timeline this Executive Council agreed on.

As I have expressed before, the Japanese Government pledged to provide substantial financial contributions to both the OPCW and the United Nations.

With the anticipation that all the remaining tasks shall be executed with a great sense of urgency, in order to complete the destruction of chemical weapons materials in accordance within the agreed timeline, we have decided to allocate an even larger financial contribution to the OPCW.

I recalled that, at the last meeting of the Executive Council, we had taken note of the assessment of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission, expressed in the letter by the United Nations Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council on 27 January, that the Syrian Arab Republic has sufficient material and equipment necessary to carry out multiple ground movements to ensure the expeditions for the removal of chemical weapons material.

We also take note of the plan provided by the Operational Planning Group on the schedule of the removal of chemical weapons material out of the Syrian Arab Republic, as referred to in the Director-General's report this morning, and we support the elements announced by the Security Council on 6 February and urge the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to expedite the removal of the chemical weapons out of the Syrian Arab Republic in accordance with the Executive Council decisions, so that all the chemical weapons will be destroyed by the end of June.

For that, we think it is important to see substantial progress in the efforts of removal of Priority 1 chemicals, even before the next session of the Executive Council, its Seventy-Fifth Session.

Briefly on the chemical weapons production facilities, this delegation shares the concern that agreement has not been reached on the question of the method of destruction of the chemical weapons production facilities.



According to the Convention, the CWPFs need to be destroyed physically.

I understand that it is also a practice of this Organisation to destroy the CWPF physically, and the CWPF in the Syrian Arab Republic should not constitute an exception to these practices.

We believe that the proposal made by the United States of America at the Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Executive Council in its national paper is in line with the provision of the Convention.

I would like to request that this statement be issued as an official document of this meeting of the Council.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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