



OPCW

Executive Council

Forty-Second Meeting
17 June 2014

EC-M-42/NAT.5
17 June 2014
ENGLISH only

JAPAN

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

Mr Chairperson,

I would like to extend my appreciation to the Special Coordinator of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission, Ms Kaag, for her update on the present status of the situation. My appreciation also goes to the Director-General for his report on the progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons.

On the overall progress of the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons, we fully share the concern expressed by many previous speakers. While we are approaching 30 June, the date we have attached so much importance to during our deliberation in the last nine months, to our great disappointment, we have seen no progress in the transport of remaining chemicals since 24 April.

On the CWPF, no destruction activity has been started.

Given the seriousness of the matter, the Executive Council has spent so much time and energy on this important issue. Many countries including Japan have made substantial contributions both financial and in-kind. Furthermore, as has been expressed by the Ambassador of Denmark, the delay of transport has further increased the burden and complications to countries which have made contributions in-kind.

While we recognise the importance for the Executive Council to consider how we can respond to the situations in the Seventy-Sixth Session based upon the progress of the implementation, Japan urges the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to exert the maximum efforts to implement all commitment both in transport and the destruction of the CWPF for full compliance.

Concerning the air-hangars, we understand that agreements on the modalities of destructions are close to be reached. Based on its progress, we would like to support the Director-General to initiate the preparatory works for the destruction of the air-hangars, so that when the Executive Council can make appropriate decisions on the issue, the full destruction could be done expeditiously.



Concerning the suspected use of toxic chemicals including chlorine, we appreciate and praise the efforts of the Fact-Finding Mission, and support the continuous efforts by the Technical Secretariat to present to the Executive Council a clearer picture and facts about what happened.

On the initial declaration and possible gaps, we appreciate the Technical Secretariat and some States Parties for their efforts to provide us with their assessment on the possible gap. We would like to study the assessment carefully in order to secure the full compliance with the provisions of the Convention.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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