



**OPCW**

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**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA  
TO THE OPCW AT THE NINETY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
UNDER AGENDA SUBITEM 6(B) ON THE PROGRESS OF  
THE JAPANESE ACW DESTRUCTION**

Mr Chairman,

As the Alternate Chinese Representative to the OPCW, I would like to brief the Council on the progress of the Japanese ACW destruction since the last session, and on China's positions on relevant issues.

Due to the impact of COVID-19, no operations of Japanese ACW destruction, on-site investigation, identification, and packing were conducted during the reporting period. As a result, the number of the Japanese ACWs destroyed remained the same as that reported for the preceding reporting period.

Since last May, after taking full consideration of the developments of the pandemic in China, China and Japan agreed that the construction of the projects in the facility at Haerbaling should be gradually resumed. They are now well underway, with the anti-pandemic measures in place. The construction of the main part of the supplementary section of the destruction facility and the project of the consolidated restoration were completed. The following projects are still going on: the decoration and fittings of the supplementary section of the destruction facility, the construction of the auxiliary facilities, the construction of the second contaminant storehouse, and the power expansion.

At the same time, China and Japan are in the process of consultations over the following aspects of work: firstly, the operation planning for the Haerbaling facility and the mobile destruction facilities, as well as the corresponding anti-pandemic measures for them; secondly, the project contractors, the project budgets, and the construction criteria for the high-mobility destruction facilities to be built in Guangzhou and Taiyuan; thirdly, high-mobility destruction operations and the detailed investigation relating to the toxic agent storehouse in Liaoyuan; and fourthly, the on-site investigations in Mudanjiang, Dunhua and Taiyuan, and the identification and packing operations in Qiqihar and Jixi, which had been planned for this year, as well as the corresponding anti-pandemic measures and the schedules for them.

The complete destruction of CWs of all categories, including Japanese ACWs, constitutes a core objective of the work of the OPCW. It is also an important and indispensable part of the effort to create "a world free from chemical weapons". In the process of the disposal of Japanese ACW, China has expended huge quantities of human and material resources, and



provided to Japan full assistance and support in all regards. Ever since the outbreak of COVID-19, with a factual and realistic approach, and for the purpose of speeding up the destruction process and minimising the impact caused thereby on the destruction, China has carried out a large amount of study in advance, internal coordination and assistance, while working out a comprehensive and appropriate program of work for the pandemic prevention and control, in an effort to ensure the normal operation of the construction of the projects concerned.

Japan undertook to complete, by the end of 2022, the destruction of the Japanese ACW buried at Haerbaling and those across China declared to the OPCW before 2016. At the moment, through video conferencing, telephony, and email, China and Japan maintain their close communication on the arrangements for the next steps of work. On 23 September, China, Japan, and the Secretariat held a trilateral meeting on-line and exchanged views on the current and next steps of work. For the resumption of the operations, it is necessary to take full account of the developments of the pandemic in both countries and meet all the domestic prevention and control requirements in China. China is willing to continue to enhance its coordination with Japan on the early resumption of all the operations, and will timely update the OPCW on the process in this respect. China hopes that Japan will further re-adjust and detail its programme of the next steps of work, in order to resume the normal operations at an early date. China will continue to provide its assistance as appropriate.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

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