

**Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)
5th Review Conference (RevCon)**

***Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons
and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP)*
Statement, Delivered by Japan, as 2023 GP President
15-19 May 2023, World Forum, The Hague**

This is a Statement of *the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP)* on behalf of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

On behalf of the Global Partnership, I would like to commend you, Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast, for your chairmanship of the 5th CWC Review Conference and to thank Ambassador Kuusing for leading deliberations over the course of the preparatory process. Please be assured that all members of the Global Partnership will fully support you to make this conference a success and strengthen the CWC.

Last year marked the 20th anniversary of the Global Partnership – an initiative started at the Kananaskis Summit in Canada in June 2002 to prevent terrorists, and those that harbor them, from acquiring and using weapons of mass destruction. The G7-led Global Partnership has grown to include 30 member countries and the European Union, and has proven itself to be the primary international programmatic mechanism for countering threats posed by chemical and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD). For more than two decades, members of the GP have contributed significant financial and technical resources to address a diverse range of chemical weapons related threats around the world. Our efforts have included substantial assistance for the destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles in Russia, Libya and Syria, sustained support for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and capacity building for chemical security and chemical weapon nonproliferation all over the world.

However, despite our efforts, the use of chemical weapons is still a real threat to

international peace and security, as we have seen in recent years in Iraq, Malaysia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation. The Global Partnership community reiterates that any use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone under any circumstances is unacceptable and that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be held accountable. In this regard, we welcome the third report of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT), which concluded that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Syrian Arab Air Force perpetrated the attacks. There must be no impunity for the use of chemical weapons.

The Global Partnership members also stand united in our support for Ukraine against Russia's unjustified and illegal invasion. Russia's irresponsible and sustained attacks against civilian and chemical infrastructure in Ukraine, continues to increase the danger of an accidental chemical release. We urgently call upon Russia to stop immediately its ongoing and unprovoked aggression against Ukraine.

In the face of these challenges, the Global Partnership remains at the forefront of international efforts to reduce the risk from chemical weapons threats. The GP is unwavering in its commitment to counter and prevent the use of chemical weapons and uphold international obligation against chemical weapons development, production, acquisition and use. We also reiterate our support for the full and effective implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 as a key mechanism for combatting chemical terrorism.

The Global Partnership's strength is rooted in its actions. Since the last Review Conference GP members have made a broad range of meaningful contributions to mitigate chemical weapons threats and to strengthen and support the work of the OPCW. As will be outlined in greater detail by Canada later this week, over the past five years GP partners have delivered more than US\$282 Million (or €271 Million) in programming to prevent, detect and respond to chemical weapons, proliferation and terrorism threats. One example that showcases the strength of collective action and commitment amongst GP members is the OPCW's new Centre for Chemistry and Technology, which was inaugurated last week. Recognizing that new Centre will help to ensure that the OPCW remains fit for purpose and equipped to keep pace with emerging chemical weapons threats, GP members provided nearly 98% of the total funding for the facility's construction.

While proud of our past contributions, GP members are focused on the future. In this regard, at the most recent Chemical Security Working Group (CSWG) meeting held in Tokyo in March, Global Partnership members discussed ongoing and future programming to mitigate chemical weapons and terrorism threat, including cooperation with the OPCW. GP members continue to provide substantial financial and technical support to the OPCW so that it remain prepared to respond to emerging CW use and destruction.

We also reaffirm our commitment to gender equality in the creation and delivery of our programmatic activities. We commit to raise awareness to the gender-related impact of chemical threats and to mainstream adequate responses in the formulation of our threat reduction activities.

We call upon other CWC States Parties to join us in helping at-risk partner countries enhance their capabilities to prevent, detect, and respond effectively to the use or threat of use of chemical weapons. For our part, members of the Global Partnership reiterate our ongoing commitment to combat CW threats, enhance chemical security, and improve coordination of chemical security threat reduction programs and activities across the globe, in partnership with the OPCW Technical Secretariat and other States Parties.