



الجمهورية العربية السورية

Syrian Arab Republic

H.E Ambassador Milad ATIEH

Permanent Representative of Syrian Arab Republic

To the OPCW

Agenda Item 7A: Reports by the Director General of destruction related issues

**Agenda Item 7 B: Implementation of the Conference of the States Parties and
Executive Council on destruction-related issues**

10-13 October 2023

English Translation

The destruction of Japanese chemical weapons left in China falls not only within the framework of Japan's international obligations, but also within the framework of its historical and political responsibility.

These weapons pose a serious physical threat, as they are spread over more than 120 sites spread across 18 Chinese provinces, in addition to 330,000 units buried in Herbin. Documented incidents indicate serious risks to the lives of innocent Chinese citizens. What is worth mentioning is the clear delay in the destruction work by Japan as the state party not adhering to the general timetable and not adhering with what is stipulated in the Convention, in particular the agreement signed between the governments of China and Japan in 1999, as well as the Council's decisions for the years 2012, 2016 and 2022 have not been adhered to by Japan.

We have seen the two reports submitted by the Permanent Missions of China and Japan in September 2023. China was clear in its report that it has made significant efforts to accelerate and facilitate the destruction process, and continues to urge Japan to increase its contributions and accelerate its work to eradicate the scourge of Japanese abandoned chemical weapons in a complete, and comprehensive manner as early as possible.

We call on Japan to intensify its efforts and adhere to the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention and what was agreed upon with the Chinese government. We also call on Western countries that have turned a deaf ear to demand that Japan comply and implement what is required of it as quickly as possible.

As for the National Paper submitted by the United States on the progress made in completing the destruction of its stockpile of chemical weapons, despite the fact that the United States of America has not adhered to its obligations under the decisions of the Executive Council and the Conference for many years, we stress the need to follow up on this issue and verify it as required by the Convention.

Thank you and I hope that this statement will be considered an official document of the 104th session of the Executive Council, and published on the General OPCW website and Catalyst.