

Statement of Japan

**By H.E. Ambassador MINAMI Hiroshi,
Permanent Representative of Japan to the OPCW, and
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

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Mr. Chairperson,

We are very concerned over the issue of chemical weapons program in Syria. At the outset, I would like to say that we are of the view that the IIT is the legitimate and legal organ, which was established in accordance with the provision of the Convention.

We welcome the fourth report of the IIT, which was published very recently. And Japan commends the professional, impartial and independent work conducted by the IIT.

Coming to the Syrian chemical weapons dossier, Japan welcomes the twenty-sixth round of consultations with the participation of all Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) members. However, we are concerned that there are still a number of outstanding issues. Japan expects that tangible results should be made and strongly urges Syria to ensure accountability for the incidents in which the use of chemical weapons were confirmed. Japan also urges Syria to fully cooperate with the activities of the Technical Secretariat, including the DAT. I would like to emphasize that we fully support the activities of the Technical Secretariat for its professionalism, impartiality and independence. And we oppose any attempts to undermine the excellent work by the Technical Secretariat. And also, we are very

grateful to the Technical Secretariat for its briefing on the 29th of February.

I kindly request this statement be made an official document and be published on the external server and on the public website.

Thank you.