



**Statement by the Delegation of Japan to the OPCW at the 109th
Session of the Executive Council
Under Agenda Item 6(e)**

Japan expresses its grave concern over the findings of the third TAV report issued on 20 June. We also express our concern over the reports that Russia has used toxic chemicals, including chloropicrin. All States Parties must remain vigilant in defending the long-standing norm against the use of chemical weapons. We underline the need to hold perpetrators of chemical weapons use accountable. In this context, we attentively read the Note Verbale issued by Ukraine dated 7 July, and we fully understand the request by Ukraine to establish an independent and impartial mechanism for investigation. We remain committed to supporting efforts to ensure accountability and uphold the norm, and we will seriously and expeditiously consider the request by Ukraine, in collaboration with other States Parties.

We commend the leadership of Director-General Ambassador Arias and the readiness of the Technical Secretariat, particularly the TAV team and the APB. Japan also expresses its respect for Ukraine for successfully collecting samples in accordance with internationally recognized high standards. Japan has full confidence in the OPCW's work on this issue. We also highlight that the swift analysis of the samples in OPCW-designated laboratories selected by the Director-General, is essential in the investigation of alleged case of chemical weapons use.

It is regrettable that Russia is engaged in spreading disinformation aimed at obscuring the issue, instead of providing a credible response to the questions posed by States Parties. We have seen similar cases in the past, including the poisoning of Mr. Alexei Navalny and the Salisbury attacks. We urge Russia to

provide clear and sufficient answers to the questions posed.

Lastly, we commend Ukraine's continued commitment to cooperating with the OPCW and recognize its extraordinary resilience and determination in defending its sovereignty and independence despite immense hardship.