



National Statement (Japan) for 67th meeting of Executive Council

At the outset, Japan would like to extend its appreciation to Mr. Chairperson, Ambassador Thomas Schieb, and Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for your leadership in convening this important session of the Executive Council.

Japan is gravely concerned with the situation in Iran, bearing in mind the implications of the alleged attack on a chemical facility in Iran. Japan is closely monitoring the situation of the continued diplomatic efforts for ceasefire, and we believe that immediate steps must be taken to de-escalate the situation. The escalation of the situation will pose a serious threat not only to the safety and stability of the region, but also to the effective implementation and compliance with the CWC.

The States Parties should have the rights to develop and produce chemical substances for peaceful purposes which are not prohibited by the CWC. On the other hand obviously, the States parties have to comply with the obligations constituted by the CWC.

In this context, the role of the OPCW is vital. The OPCW bears a critical responsibility to enhance the integrity and universality of the CWC, and to ensure the fundamental norm that chemical weapons must never be used by anyone, anywhere, under any circumstances.

At this critical moment, Japan calls on all States Parties to work collectively to uphold the global norm against chemical weapons through dialogues, and to refrain from any actions that could undermine the CWC regime.