



National Statement (Japan) for 68th meeting of Executive Council

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Chairperson, Ambassador Thomas Schieb and Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias, for their leadership to convene this meeting of the Executive Council.

Japan remains gravely concerned about the situation in the region. We urge all relevant parties to uphold Syria's independence and sovereignty, and to ensure its territorial integrity and national unity. The transfer of power to the new authorities in Syria represents a critical opportunity to bring closure to the longstanding chemical weapons dossier. In this context, any actions that obstruct the OPCW's ongoing activities in Syria should not be acceptable.

Therefore, the situation is alarming, because the strike by Israel should have seriously impacted the Technical Secretariat's ability to conduct operations on the ground. Indeed, we just heard from DG that the damage to the MoD building caused by the Israeli strike had serious and negative consequences on the activities by TS on the ground. Japan underscores the paramount importance of securing the proper control over all chemicals and related infrastructure within the Syrian territory. This is a necessary first step for the OPCW to verify the complete destruction of chemical weapons in the country.

Any escalation of the situation will pose a serious threat not only to the regional peace and stability but also to the effective implementation of and the compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Japan calls on all States to work together to uphold the global norm against chemical weapons. Japan emphasizes that any action that could further escalate the situation should be avoided, and that restoring calm is of the utmost importance.

Japan commends the commitment by the Syrian Government to cooperate with the TS, and Japan will continue to support the efforts by the Syrian Government and the TS to close the Syrian dossier.

Mr. Chairperson,

I kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of the meeting and to publish it on the OPCW official website and catalyst.