



JAPAN

Statement

by

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OPCW**

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of the Conference of the States Parties of the OPCW**

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Mr Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

Japan extends its heartfelt congratulations to His Excellency Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador on his appointment as Chairperson.

Furthermore, we wish to express our deepest appreciation for His Excellency Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias for his dedication.

In 2025, we have witnessed significant milestones in the field of chemical weapons prohibition. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Geneva Protocol. For Japan, this year marks the 30th anniversary of the Tokyo sarin gas attack, a stark reminder that the threat of chemical terrorism remains real.

With these milestones in view, our attention must now shift to the evolving situation in Syria.

We are encouraged by the developments achieved since last December. The re-establishment of the long-term presence of the Technical Secretariat represents an important milestone on the ground. Yet, the risk of proliferation persists, and Japan calls on all States Parties to support the TS missions in Syria robustly.

Japan underscores the need for accountability for chemical weapons use. We express our gratitude to the Investigation and Identification Team for its professional work and urge the TS to preserve its legacy for future missions.

Mr Chairperson,

It is regrettable that the long-standing norm is being challenged after 100 years. The Russian Federation continues to engage in a disinformation campaign aimed at undermining the credibility of

Ukraine, the OPCW, and States Parties including Japan, which posed a legitimate question regarding whether the Russia has used chemical weapons.

The TAV reports have repeatedly confirmed the presence of RCAs on the frontlines in Ukraine. This may indicate chemical weapons use by Russia. Should such use be confirmed, attribution must become another defining milestone for the international community. This is a test of whether the international community could uphold the norm that we built over a century.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would also like to highlight the important progress on the Abandoned Chemical Weapons project in China. Japan has consistently dedicated substantial resources to their destruction. As of 31 October 2025, we have registered the formal declaration of approximately 170,000 ACW items and have successfully overseen the destruction of nearly 140,000 of these. A detailed explanation shall be provided under the designated agenda item.

Mr. Chairperson,

Finally, Japan warmly welcomes the decision of the last EC in appointing Her Excellency Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior Matter as the next and first female Director-General. Let me conclude my remarks by reaffirming Japan's commitment to continuously dedicate its utmost efforts towards the realization of the CWC's goals.

I thank you, Mr.Chair.