



JAPAN

**Statement**

**by**

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

**At the One Hundred and Eleventh Session  
of the Executive Council of the OPCW**

**The Hague, 10-13 March 2026**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Director-General,  
Distinguished delegates,

As this marks my very first opportunity to take part in the Executive Council, I would like to begin by expressing my great honour and pleasure to join this esteemed Council at such a pivotal time for the OPCW and the world. Japan is fully committed to contributing actively and constructively for the OPCW's shared mission of achieving a world free of chemical weapons.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Your Excellency Ambassador Thomas Schieb for your extraordinary leadership as the Chairperson of the Executive Council.

Likewise, I take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt appreciation to Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias for your outstanding leadership and unwavering dedication to the Organisation.

We very much look forward to working closely with the Technical Secretariat and States Parties to advance towards the goals of the OPCW.

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the IIT's fifth report identifying the involvement of the former Syrian Arab Air Force in the 2016 chemical weapons attack in Kafr Zeita. Japan commends the continued efforts of the Syrian authority and the Technical Secretariat despite many challenges they face. Japan remains committed and hopeful for tangible outcomes in the destruction of chemical weapons in Syria under the trusting collaboration between Syria and the Technical Secretariat.

To support this ongoing effort in Syria, following up on the previous assistance, Japan has contributed approximately 110,000 euros to the Trust Fund for Syria Missions, and exchange note was signed on

5 March earlier this month. Japan hopes that this contribution will serve as a meaningful step toward advancing the Missions.

Mr. Chairperson,

Japan expresses its deep concern over the TAV reports repeatedly confirming the presence of Riot Control Agents (RCAs) on the frontlines in Ukraine. We deeply regret that Russia has failed to provide any substantive or credible response to the legitimate inquiries concerning its alleged use of RCAs in Ukraine. We strongly call upon Russia to provide transparent explanations addressing all related reports and concerns.

Japan considers the attribution mechanism to be an essential tool for ensuring accountability, supporting victim assistance, and promoting the effective enforcement of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Perpetrators of chemical weapons use must be held accountable in accordance with established international norms and responsibilities.

Japan takes careful note of the Joint Statement and the Note by France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom regarding the poisoning of Mr. Alexei Navalny, and continues to follow developments on this matter.

Mr. Chairperson,

Four years have passed since Russia's aggression against Ukraine, and this aggression continues to pose a serious threat to international peace and stability. Japan condemns Russia's unjustified and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine. In response to the persistent chemical weapons threats in Ukraine, Japan has also decided to contribute additionally approximately 85,000 euros to the Trust fund under Article X. Japan remains steadfast in the support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Mr Chairperson,

Japan emphasizes the importance of recognizing AI's impact on the CWC. We commend the Scientific Advisory Board's Temporary Working Group for its valuable report. Its practical recommendations and focus on responsible AI use will strengthen OPCW's verification, capacity building, and governance amid emerging technological challenges.

Mr Chairperson,

We would like to update the progress of the Abandoned Chemical Weapons (ACW) project in China. Japan has been making continuous effort in this regard. By the end of February 2026, Japan has declared 183,133 items and completed the destruction of 149,378 of them. We will report on the progress of the ACW project in detail under the relevant agenda item in this EC.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to once again express our sincere appreciation and enthusiasm for the opportunity to take part in this important meeting. Japan reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the goal of a world free of chemical weapons.

Thank you very much for your attention.