



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Third Review Conference  
8 – 19 April 2013

RC-3/NAT.5  
27 March 2013  
CHINESE and ENGLISH only

**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

**POSITION PAPER - CHEMICAL WEAPONS ABANDONED BY JAPAN IN CHINA**

1. The early completion of the destruction of all chemical weapons, including chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China (hereinafter “Japanese ACWs”), has a direct relevance to the realisation of the core objective of the total elimination of the threat of chemical weapons of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) as a treaty of disarmament. The total and thorough destruction of abandoned chemical weapons under effective verification of the OPCW, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention and in compliance with the relevant decision of the Executive Council, constitutes a basic obligation under the Convention for Abandoning States Parties.
2. Japanese ACWs are more dangerous than existing stockpiles in the general sense. Japan used chemical weapons on many occasions during its war of aggression against China, causing large numbers of deaths and injuries among the Chinese military and civilians. On the eve of its defeat, Japan abandoned large quantities of these weapons on the territory of China. In recent years, more and more Japanese ACWs are being discovered in densely populated areas, natural reserves, and in rivers and lakes as well as in off-shore waters. After being buried for a long period of time, many of the Japanese ACWs are now deformed, damaged, or even leaking. In the absence of any information on their burial, these discoveries are mostly chance encounters, making it very difficult to date for the Chinese Government to take effective precautionary measures. As a result, there have been repeated incidences of casualty and environmental contamination. The Japanese ACWs are still posing a serious threat to Chinese people in affected areas in terms of the safety of their lives, property and environment. It is a matter that brooks no delay that Japanese ACWs must be disposed of and destroyed safely and at the earliest.
3. Failure to meet the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 for the complete destruction of Japanese ACWs caused much regret for the implementation of the Convention. As the Abandoning State Party with the obligation for destruction, Japan failed to fulfil its obligation under the Convention and complete the destruction before that deadline. The Chinese Government, in a pragmatic and cooperative approach, made efforts in order to find a solution within the framework of the Convention. As a result of these efforts, China and Japan reached a solution on this issue through negotiations and the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session adopted a decision (EC-67/DEC.6, “decision on future destruction”) endorsing the timeframe agreed upon between China and Japan, i.e., the completion within 2016 of destruction of



Japanese ACWs already excavated and recovered (not including those buried or stored in Haerbaling), the completion within 2022 of destruction of Japanese ACWs in Haerbaling, and Japan's continuing commitment to its obligation for the destruction of those ACWs already confirmed through joint investigations and to be declared to the OPCW as well as to those which may subsequently be confirmed through such investigations. The decision by the Council on future destruction and the destruction timeframe agreed upon between China and Japan should be complied with effectively.

4. Recently, as is keenly called for and with effective support from China, some progress has been achieved toward the disposal of Japanese ACWs. However, the rate of destruction has by now noticeably fallen behind schedule against the above-mentioned destruction plan drawn up by China and Japan. In these circumstances, the Third Review Conference should undertake a comprehensive review of the issue of Japanese ACWs and plan for the work to be carried out at the next stage on the issue of Japanese ACWs. Specifically, the report of the Third Review Conference should:
  - (a) Reaffirm the relevant provisions of the Convention on the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons, emphasise the importance of cooperation on this issue between the Abandoning State Party and the Territorial State Party, and therefore welcome the Memorandum Between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Japan on the Destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in China (1999) and Memorandum Between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Japan on the Destruction after 29 April 2012 of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in China (2012);
  - (b) Review the progress made in the destruction of Japanese ACWs in accordance with the decision on future destruction (EC-67/DEC.6) and call on Japan to increase input in accordance with the Convention and the Council decision with a view to achieving total and complete destruction of Japanese ACWs at the earliest, with China providing appropriate cooperation;
  - (c) Reaffirm that the Council will carry out visits in due course for the sake of transparency to examine the process of destruction of abandoned chemical weapons and that the Conference of the States Parties will take note of annual reports of the Council concerning the progress made for the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons from a viewpoint of facilitating the destruction;
  - (d) Stress that the OPCW should ensure adequate resources for the verification of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons.