



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Third Review Conference  
8 – 19 April 2013

RC-3/NAT.43  
9 April 2013  
ENGLISH only

**JAPAN**

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MITSURU KITANO  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
DISARMAMENT, NON-PROLIFERATION AND SCIENCE DEPARTMENT  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AT THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Mr Chairperson,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Director-General,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, let me join other speakers in extending my heartfelt congratulations to you, Ambassador Krzysztof Paturej, on your assumption of chairpersonship of the Third Review Conference. I am fully confident that this conference will be successfully guided under your excellent leadership. I wish to thank the Director-General of the OPCW, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, for his comprehensive report and his consistent efforts to promote the work of the Organisation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Ambassador Nassima Baghli of Algeria for her dedicated work as the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Review Conference.

I am very confident that the Chemical Weapons Convention has made a significant contribution to promoting international peace and security by achieving wide adherence to the Convention, comprehensive chemical disarmament, through substantial efforts to destroy chemical weapons, as well as maintaining its verification regime to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons and to build confidence among States Parties.

Nevertheless, the OPCW would have to continue to make further efforts towards fully achieving the objectives set out in the Convention. While the progress of chemical weapons destruction has set out a course for completion in a foreseeable future, the threats of chemical weapons by States not Party, as well as non-State actors, have been increasing. Furthermore, developments in science and technology may affect the verification regime which is the cornerstone to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

In order to keep on adapting to a changing security environment, this conference should set out future ways and means of the OPCW. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the priorities for the future of the OPCW and the possible ways we should take.



The alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria is a serious concern to regional and international peace and security. Japan supports the statement by the Chairperson of Executive Council following the Thirty-Second Meeting and is of the view that this conference needs to express serious concern over the situation in Syria and unequivocal support of the investigation in Syria initiated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the support of the OPCW.

Regarding the United Nations investigation, I highly commend the works by the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat under the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the OPCW. As the expert organisation in chemical weapons, the OPCW must maintain and improve readiness to respond to any use of chemical weapons.

For international peace and security, the universalisation of the Convention has become increasingly important. The situation in Syria reminds me once again of the importance of further universalisation of the Convention.

On our part, Japan is prepared to make a contribution for this purpose. For example, we would like to invite the Union of Myanmar to accede to the Convention. We would like to provide practical assistance related to national implementation of the Convention in close cooperation with the Technical Secretariat.

On the destruction of chemical weapons, Japan welcomes that a timely and balanced decision on the “final extended deadline of 29 April 2012” was adopted at the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. The commitment and continuous efforts made by the possessor States to destroy the chemical weapon stockpiles are appreciated. Japan expects that the decision will continue to be implemented steadily.

Japan is committed to making utmost efforts to destroy abandoned chemical weapons (ACWs) in China. Japan has invested enormous resources in the ACW destruction projects. The projects have achieved significant progress with close cooperation and joint efforts by Japan and China. Japan reaffirms its commitment to continue its fullest possible efforts to move forward the projects in cooperation with China. The details of the progress have been circulated in the form of a national paper of Japan to this conference. Also, in order to promote a good understanding and to enhance transparency, a presentation on the ACW projects will be held here in the World Forum on 10 April. I would like to take this opportunity to invite all delegates to visit this side event.

Japan is of the view that by thoroughly implementing the Convention, the OPCW would contribute most effectively to the promotion of international peace and security. To that effect, it is indispensable for all States Parties to establish their national implementation system in accordance with the Convention. However, the status of implementation of Article VII has not reached a satisfactory level. The States Parties and the Technical Secretariat must make further efforts in this regard as a matter of priority.

The verification regime has played a significant role in preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons. In order for the verification regime to function effectively it is necessary for all States Parties to make accurate and complete declarations under Article VI in a timely manner. Those States Parties that have not implemented the national system for industry declaration are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

It is important that the OPCW constantly considers concrete measures for conducting the verification in the most efficient and effective manner without imposing too much burden to the industry. Moreover, the Technical Secretariat needs to secure its function and proficiency for performing all necessary verification measures, including challenge inspections, along with science and technology developments. For this purpose, it is vital to continue the consultation on chemical industry and other Article VI issues including alternatives for verification at mixed plant sites. It is also vital to utilise the expertise of the Scientific Advisory Board more proactively and to strengthen the interaction with chemical industry.

With a view to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons, the national and regional capacity-building for protection against the use of chemical weapons, and for chemical safety and security, are also essential. A lot of efforts have already been made voluntarily by the chemical industry in the area of chemical safety and security. Japan believes that it would be effective to share their knowledge and experience in this area.

International cooperation is also important in order to enhance national implementation of the Convention and chemical safety and security. In this regard, Japan has been supporting the Associate Programme by providing on-site training in the Japanese chemical industry as well as sharing our experience, by sending experts to the seminars and meetings of National Authorities. The OPCW needs to continue its effort to promote international cooperation through the steady implementation of the relevant decision in this area.

In order to realise the possible ways and directions for the future of the OPCW which I mentioned in this statement, there is a need for the Technical Secretariat to play various roles more than ever. Japan commends the Technical Secretariat's constant efforts of reviewing the management and structure and improving the operational efficiency. To reinforce such efforts, Japan invites the Technical Secretariat to continue its efforts to be a more compact, flexible and efficient organisation optimising its human and financial resources while maintaining the necessary functions.

Mr Chairperson, in closing, I wish you every success during this session in achieving our common goal to hammer out a significant final report including a vigorous political declaration which will lead the Convention for the coming five years. I assure you of the support of the delegation of Japan to ensure the successful outcome of this conference. I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document. Thank you.

- - - 0 - - -