



JAPAN

Statement under Agenda Item 6(c)

by

The Delegation of Japan to the OPCW

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

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We welcome the progress achieved through the cooperation of the Technical Secretariat, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the State of Qatar.

We are encouraged that the Office of Special Mission continues its deployment to the Syrian Arab Republic despite the challenging security situation. However, significant challenges remain. The Technical Secretariat still needs to visit more than 100 sites across the country. The complete declaration and destruction of all chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic will require substantial assistance from both the Technical Secretariat and States Parties. In this regard, the establishment of a Syrian Special Fund within the regular budget represents an important step forward.

We also support the draft decision on expedited on-site destruction and trust that this will ensure destruction activities are carried out in the most efficient and safe manner, fully in accordance with the Convention.

Finally, Japan, recalling the IIT reports which found reasonable grounds to conclude that the perpetrators including Syrian military used chemical weapons, notably in Douma in April 2018, would like to commend the impartial, scientific, and professional work by the TS. At the same time, we firmly reject any statements that seek to undermine the activities and reports of the IIT without legitimate grounds, such actions are contrary to the objectives of the CWC.