



JAPAN

Statement

by

**H.E. Ambassador MINAMI Hiroshi,
Permanent Representative of Japan to the OPCW, and
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the
Kingdom of the Netherlands**

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

The Hague, 7-10 October 2025

Mr. Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, allow me to convey my sincere appreciation to Mr. Chairperson, H.E. Ambassador Thomas Schieb, for your extraordinary leadership in steering the Executive Council through the intensive sessions. I wish to reaffirm my full support as well as that of my delegation.

Japan also extends our deep gratitude to the Director-General, H.E. Ambassador Fernando Arias and to the Technical Secretariat for their tireless efforts and continued commitment.

Mr. Chairperson,
We note with appreciation the leadership of the Technical Secretariat and Syria's continued engagement to resolve outstanding chemical weapons issues. We are encouraged by the progress made by the OSM; however, serious concerns remain. The results of the analysis of samples collected in April 2025 at a previously undeclared site revealed indicators of nerve agents. This demonstrates that the risk of proliferation is real. In this context, we support the robust missions to Syria to address these imminent threats and are of the view that the mission should be equipped with sufficient resources. Accountability for the use of chemical weapons remains central to upholding the norm. In this regard, we express our utmost gratitude for the work conducted by the IIT and strongly urge the Technical Secretariat to maintain the professional capacity of the IIT and build upon its legacy for future missions.

It was at the October Executive Council two years ago that Japan, together with partners, posed a question to the Russian Federation. The Technical Secretariat has officially confirmed the presence of riot control agents (RCAs) on the frontlines in Ukraine. Yet we have not received any meaningful response to the legitimate inquiries raised by States Parties. Instead, the Russian Federation has engaged in

disinformation campaigns to obscure the issue, a pattern we have also seen in the case of Mr. Alexei Navalny and the Salisbury attacks. We remind the Russian Federation to provide clear and sufficient answers to the questions of whether the Russian military has used RCAs in combat operations in Ukraine, and how it assesses its own media reports regarding such use. The use of chemical weapons cannot go unpunished, and we emphasize the need for an attribution mechanism, should the use of chemical weapons be confirmed.

Mr. Chairperson,

Japan welcomes the draft decision on the 2026-27 biennium Programme and Budget. We recognize that a series of extensive and constructive discussions took place to draft this crucial budget. Japan greatly appreciates the tireless efforts of the Technical Secretariat and the facilitators in shaping this budget in an effective and sustainable manner. In particular, we commend the achievement of zero nominal growth and the inclusion of the Syria Special Fund in the regular budget, which will further enhance the OPCW's ability, as a highly technical organization, to fulfil its unique and vital mandate.

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to provide an update on the progress of the Abandoned Chemical Weapons (ACW) project in China. Japan has made the utmost efforts, by investing enormous human and financial resources, for the progress of the destruction of ACW. As of 31 August 2025, Japan has declared 163,714 items and completed the destruction of about 133,659 of them. Japan remains firmly engaged in advancing the implementation of the destruction plan and values the constructive partnership with China. A more detailed report will be presented under the relevant agenda item during this EC session.

Mr. Chairperson,

Japan wishes to address the ongoing process for the appointment of the next Director-General. My delegation would like to extend its deepest appreciation to Mr. Chairperson, H.E. Ambassador Schieb and the Technical Secretariat for your outstanding leadership and dedication in conducting this extremely challenging process under the complex dynamics. Japan sincerely hopes that our collective efforts will bear fruit in a consensus-based outcome for the selection of the new Director-General. I believe that under the guidance of the entrusted Director-General, States Parties will continue to uphold our responsibilities with unwavering commitment. Japan also stands ready to fulfil its obligations with diligence and strong determination, in order to advance our shared vision of a world free of chemical weapons.

I request that this statement should be made an official document of the 110th session of the Executive Council, and be published on the OPCW external server and the public website.