



OPCW

Executive Council

Seventy-Second Session
6 – 8 May 2013

EC-72/NAT.13
6 May 2013
ENGLISH only

JAPAN

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR YASUMASA NAGAMINE
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN
AT THE SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,
Director-General,

Let me begin by welcoming you, Ambassador Mukherjee, back to the Chair of the Executive Council. I am confident that, under your able leadership, this session of the Council will once again be successfully conducted. I assure you of my delegation's fullest support and cooperation.

My delegation believes that it was a great achievement that a forward-looking outcome document was adopted at the Third Review Conference by consensus. The final report touches upon the necessity to adapt the Convention and the Organisation to a changing security environment. It also sets out the future direction of the OPCW. Furthermore, it was also meaningful that the political declaration part of the final document sends out our message to the outside world, and that the review part, part B of the document, indicates the possible ways we should take concerning each area of the Convention. From now on, it is important for us to implement what has been indicated in the outcome document.

Concerning the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria, if chemical weapons have been used, it is a serious concern to regional and international peace and security and creates a serious problem against the international efforts for disarmament and non-proliferation. My delegation takes note of the statement made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the Third Review Conference in this regard.

On the investigation in Syria by the United Nations, Japan highly commends the efforts by the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat for preparing for cooperating with the United Nations under the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the OPCW. In our view, the investigation should be neutral, and the investigation team should be given unconditional access by the Syrian authorities. Japan strongly requests the Syrian authorities to ensure that chemical weapons are not used or transferred to non-State actors under any circumstances.

As the expert organisation in chemical weapons, the OPCW must maintain and improve readiness to respond to any use of chemical weapons.



Concerning universality, Japan welcomes the announcement of the commitment of Somalia to accede to the Convention, which was mentioned by the Director-General at the Third Review Conference. Japan is prepared to make a contribution in this area, so that other States not Party would follow. For example, we would like to encourage the Union of Myanmar to accede to the Convention by providing practical assistance related to national implementation of the Convention in close cooperation with the Technical Secretariat.

On the destruction of chemical weapons, Japan commends that appropriate reports were made by the Director-General and the possessor States Parties on the progress made on the completion of the destruction of the chemical weapons. The commitment and continuous efforts made by the possessor States Parties to destroy the chemical weapon stockpiles are appreciated. Japan expects that the decision will continue to be implemented steadily.

On national implementation, the status of implementation must be improved as a matter of priority. In this regard, my delegation supports the new approach by the Technical Secretariat. We should be mindful that this approach will be taken in an effective manner so that the Convention will be thoroughly implemented. Japan would like to continue to send experts to meetings related to the Asian region with a view to share our knowledge and experience on national implementation and contribute for further progress on national implementation.

As indicated in the outcome document of the Third Review Conference, in order for the verification regime to function effectively and efficiently, 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 declarations are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

Japan welcomes that the outcome document of the Third Review Conference pointed out the importance of continuing to make efforts to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the verification system. In implementing this recommendation, it is important for the Technical Secretariat to take into account the policy guidelines for determining the number of Article VI inspections and various other circumstances related to inspections.

International cooperation is also important in order to enhance national implementation and to promote the capacity building of States Parties. In this regard, I am pleased to announce that Japan is prepared to support the Associate Programme again this year by providing on-site training in the Japanese chemical industry, as we did in previous years.

The OPCW needs to continue its effort to promote international cooperation through the steady implementation of the decision at the Sixteenth Session of the Conference on the components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI.

I would like to touch upon another issue other than the outcome of the Third Review Conference. Japan has been making utmost efforts to destroy abandoned chemical weapons (ACWs) in China in accordance with the decision at the Sixty-Seventh Session of the Council. Japan has invested enormous resources in the ACW destruction projects. The projects have achieved significant progress despite the challenges and uncertainties which those projects involve. My delegation will give a detailed explanation on the progress under the relevant agenda item.

In order to promote further a good understanding of the ACW projects, we have the pleasure to announce that Japan and China are going to welcome the Council representatives to the ACW site in Haerbaling from 9 to 13 September this year.

The progress of the ACW projects has been made thanks to the valuable on-site cooperation extended by China to Japan. Japan emphasises that the unprecedented and extremely challenging projects cannot be carried out without close coordination and cooperation between Japan and China. In this respect, Japan reaffirms its commitment to continue its fullest possible efforts to move the projects forward with the appropriate cooperation of China.

Madam Chairperson,

This is your last session of the Council as Chair. Under your able leadership, the OPCW has made remarkable achievements solving key issues. My delegation reiterates deep appreciation for all your efforts and dedication. To conclude, I would like to assure you of the support of this delegation to ensure the successful conduct of the Council.

I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session of the Council.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

--- 0 ---