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JAPAN

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR YASUMASA NAGAMINE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN TO THE OPCW
AT THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,
Director-General,

Allow me, first of all, to congratulate you, Ambassador Horin, on your election as the Chair of the Executive Council. I am fully confident that, with your able leadership and excellent diplomatic skills, this session of the Council will be successfully conducted and achieve fruitful results. I assure you of my delegation's fullest support and cooperation.

In order to make the best use of the achievements of the Third Review Conference, my delegation attaches importance to the follow-up process. In this context, we welcome the matrix of actionable items identified at the Review Conference, which was prepared by the Secretariat. In order to avoid duplication of work, Japan believes that the follow-up should be done in an efficient and effective manner, making the best use of the existing clusters or facilitations.

Japan also welcomes the non-paper on the OPCW as a global knowledge repository. In this transitional period of the OPCW, it is important to take initiative in order to preserve its knowledge and expertise, which is also indicated in the outcome report of the Third Review Conference. Japan is prepared to discuss this matter in a positive manner based on the non-paper prepared by the Secretariat.

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. Japan reiterates that chemical weapons should not be used nor transferred to non-State actors under any circumstances.

On the investigation in Syria by the United Nations, Japan highly commends the efforts by the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat for providing necessary cooperation to 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.



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

On the destruction of chemical weapons, Japan commends the commitment and continuous efforts made by the possessor States Parties to destroy the chemical weapon stockpiles. Japan expects that the relevant decision at the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties will continue to be implemented steadily.

Under the current severe international economic situation, Japan believes that the budget for 2014 should be as efficient as possible. In this context, Japan appreciates that the Technical Secretariat has made great efforts for the reduction of costs. There seems to be several different views with regard to the baseline for the budget 2014. What is important is to prepare an efficient and effective budget which would allow the Secretariat to do its necessary works, without increasing the overall budget. Japan expects that it will be made possible through the budget consultations.

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. According to the latest status report on the timely submission by States Parties of declarations under Article VI, EC-73/DG.6, a slight improvement was made in the timely submission of the annual declarations, but there is still some room for improvement. Those States Parties that have not implemented the national system for industry declarations are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

International cooperation is also important in order to enhance national implementation and to promote the capacity building of States Parties.

Japan has sent an expert to the regional workshop in the Republic of Korea on the peaceful development and uses of chemistry and shared the experiences of our chemical industry. Japan is also going to provide the two trainees, who will be sent to Japan in the framework of the Associate Programme 2013, with practical training on chemical safety, which those trainees could apply to their industry when they go back to their home countries. Japan will continue to make efforts to share information of this kind with other States Parties.

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 detailed explanation on the progress under the relevant agenda item.

Japan and China are inviting the Council representatives to the ACW site in Haerbaling from 9 to 13 September this year. We expect that this visit promote further a good understanding of the ACW projects.

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.

Mr Chairperson,

This session will be my last session of the Council as Permanent Representative of Japan. In this opportunity, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for all the cooperation provide to me and to my delegation from you, other colleagues in this room, distinguished Director-General and his staff.

To conclude, I would like to assure you, Mr Chairperson, once again of the fullest support of my delegation to a successful conduct of the Council.

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

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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