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JAPAN

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AND REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
AT THE SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,
Director-General,

Let me begin by welcoming you, Ambassador Horin, 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.

As Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed at the Sixty-Eighth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the use of chemical weapons has aroused profound shock and anger in the people in Japan. It is the firm conviction of Japan that chemical weapons must never be used again.

In this context, Japan welcomes expeditious adoption of the decision by the Executive Council at its Thirty-Third Meeting based on the framework agreement between the United States and Russia.

To date, in accordance with the decision, the Technical Secretariat has dispatched the first team to the Syrian Arab Republic on 30 September, thereby initiating its work to inspect, not later than 30 days after the adoption of the decision, all facilities contained in the list submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic, as stipulated in the decision. On 2 and 4 October, the Syrian Arab Republic has submitted further information to the Technical Secretariat.

Japan reiterates its support to the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat that are dealing with this urgent, important and unprecedented mission. We believe that it is important for all the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to continue to work together for the implementation of the decision.

As for Japan, as Prime Minister Abe mentioned at the said General Assembly of the United Nations, we will provide thorough support and the greatest possible cooperation towards the international community's endeavour to dispose of the Syrian Arab Republic's chemical weapons.



Now we urge the Syrian regime to implement the relevant Executive Council decision which is reinforced by the United Nations Security Council resolution, to secure the safety of the people on the ground and to observe the obligations under the Convention in a sincere and thorough manner.

Under the current severe international economic situation, it is important to prepare an efficient and effective budget, without increasing the overall budget. Now with this new mission related to the chemical weapons destruction in the Syrian Arab Republic, we need to first have the whole picture on the overall cost related to the chemical weapons destruction in the Syrian Arab Republic and a draft budget for 2014, i.e. the priority of the work of the Organisation planned for 2014 would be duly examined against this new background, while ensuring that the Technical Secretariat has enough resources to conduct its missions.

Japan is of the view that the deposit of the instrument of accession to the Convention by the Syrian Arab Republic marked an important step forward for the universality of the Convention.

Having said that, the risk of proliferation of chemical weapons still remains under the current international security environment. We believe that further efforts should be done for the States not Parties to join the Convention.

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.

Japan welcomes that a number of efforts have been made to follow up the Third Review Conference.

On the initiative of the knowledge management, in particular, Japan welcomes that the Technical Secretariat and the States Parties have been exchanging opinions. We are looking forward to the further report by the Technical Secretariat on this matter at this session of the Council.

Japan appreciates the initiatives taken by the Technical Secretariat to promote national implementation, such as the mentorship programme, the internship for legal drafters, or the initial requirement approach. According to the latest report on the status of implementation of Article VII, the number of States Parties which have legislation that covers all initial measures is 107. We should continue to make efforts to improve this situation.

On international cooperation, Japan highly appreciates the efforts by the Technical Secretariat to conduct a number of programmes based on the decision at the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. Japan is of the view that, for the sake of the effective and efficient implementation of Article XI, it is fundamentally important to first evaluate those programmes that the Technical Secretariat has conducted to date.

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. My delegation will give detailed explanation on the progress under the relevant agenda item.

Japan and China received the Council representatives at the ACW site in Haerbaling from 9 to 13 September. We extend our sincere appreciation to China for having hosted the first joint project of Japan and China, which is a significant demonstration of Japan-China cooperation. Our thanks also go for the efforts of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson Ambassador Camino of Ecuador, staff of the Technical Secretariat and all other people involved in the visit. Through the first-hand information the participants had during the visit, we are confident that this visit promoted further a good understanding of the current situation of the site, the progress of the ACW projects and also of the cooperation between Japan and China.

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.

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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