



OPCW

Executive Council

Forty-Sixth Meeting
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JAPAN

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MR MASARU TSUJI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN TO THE OPCW
AT THE FORTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

We welcome the progress that the destruction process outside the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic is close to completion and that over 97% of the chemicals have been destroyed.

With regard to the destruction of chemical weapons production facilities, we would like to express our appreciation to the Director-General for his update on the present status of the situation. We commend the Technical Secretariat and the UNOPS for their efforts to negotiate a contract with two companies in the Syrian Arab Republic. In particular, we acknowledged the progress that the issue concerning the taxation has been solved and contracts are to be signed soon accordingly.

There is a significant delay in the original schedule for commencing destruction of the CWPFs, and we believe it must start and be completed as soon as possible. The CWPFs need to be destroyed physically and completely in accordance with the Convention. It is essential that the Council continues to closely monitor the progress and remain attentive to the situation.

Regarding the declaration assessment, Japan appreciates the continuous efforts by the Declaration Assessment Team and reiterates its support for their work. We expect that the team will share further facts and evaluations on the recent activity with the Executive Council in a prompt manner. We request the Technical Secretariat to continue the consultation with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic for clearing away all the outstanding issues and the various concerns and doubts of this Council at the earliest possible opportunity.

With regard to the Fact-Finding Mission on the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, as my delegation expressed to the Council at the previous sessions, we strongly condemn the use of chemical weapons and this delegation supports the continuation of the work of the Fact-Finding Mission, in order to bring all the facts concerning the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic to light.



Before I conclude, we welcome Ambassador Medeiros and I wish him the best for his new assignment.

Mr Chairperson,

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

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