



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Fifty-Fourth Meeting  
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**JAPAN**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HIROSHI INOMATA  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN TO THE OPCW  
AT THE FIFTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson and the Director-General, for your able leadership to convene this meeting of the Executive Council.

At the outset, as stated at your opening remarks, we cannot remain indifferent to this horrible and terrible incident.

Japan condemns in the strongest terms the alleged use of chemical weapons on 4 April in Khan Shaykhun area, Idlib province of the Syrian Arab Republic. Many innocent civilians became the victims of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic once again. The entire international community was deeply shocked to witness the horrible tragedy where even small children were brutally killed.

This most recent incident poses a serious challenge to the global norms of prohibiting any use of chemical weapons. Needless to say, the use of chemical weapons cannot be tolerated by anyone under any circumstances or for any reasons.

In response to the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Prime Minister of Japan stated that Japan supports the determination of the Government of the United States of America that it will never allow the spread and use of chemical weapons. We understand that the United States took the action in order to prevent further aggravation of the situation.

At the same time, we are convinced that it is of the utmost importance to bring all the facts to light, identify those who are responsible for the use and bring them to justice. Therefore, Japan fully supports the work of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) and the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM), and in this context, welcomes that the FFM has already begun its activities on the incident.

We would like to urge all directly related parties, especially the Syrian Arab Republic and all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic, to provide the FFM with all necessary information and assistance to bring to light the truth.

Finally, Madam Chairperson,

We would like to request the FFM to expeditiously conclude the investigation and report its conclusion to the Executive Council as soon as possible, though now we understand we can



get it in a few weeks, so that the Executive Council will be able to consider further necessary actions and the JIM will be able to conduct its own investigation in order to identify those who are responsible.

I thank you for your attention.

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