



OPCW

Executive Council

Fifty-Fifth Meeting
5 July 2017

EC-M-55/NAT.5
5 July 2017
ENGLISH only

JAPAN

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

First, let me join with other delegations to congratulate you, Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal, on your assumption as Chairperson of the Executive Council. I also thank you former Chairperson, Ambassador Mrs Odette Melono, for your excellent work.

I commend Mr Chairperson and the Director-General for your able leadership to convene this meeting of the Executive Council.

The Fact-Finding Mission's (FFM) report on the alleged use of chemical weapons on 4 April in Khan Shaykhun, the Syrian Arab Republic, came to the grave conclusion that "sarin had been used as a weapon." We believe that this is the result of an extensive and professional investigation and analysis based on a number of scientific evidences.

Japan condemns, as other States Parties also stated, in the strongest terms such use, which 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 this regard, Japan fully supports the joint declaration introduced by the distinguished ambassadors of France and Germany. We would also like to extend our appreciation to France and Germany for their initiative, and express our intention to join the declaration as a co-signatory.

At the same time, Japan highly commends the work of the FFM and all its members for its dedication, professionalism and the quality of the report despite the very volatile security situation. Japan consistently and fully supports the work and the judgement of the FFM.

As the next step, we are convinced that it is of the utmost importance to identify those who are responsible for the use and bring them to justice in order to prevent recurrence. In this context, we would like to stress the importance of the work of the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM). Japan fully supports the work of the JIM, and would like to request the JIM to expeditiously conduct and conclude its own investigation and to report the conclusion in order to ensure the accountability of the violation of global norms.



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

I thank you for your attention.

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