



JAPAN

Statement

by

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**At the Twenty-Eighth Session
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Mr Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

First of all, please allow me to start by assuring you, Chairperson of the Conference of the States Parties, Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar, of the full support from me and my delegation. Also, let me express my gratitude to Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias for his statement.

Mr Chairperson,

Japan reiterates that any use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances is unacceptable and that those responsible must be held accountable. In this regard, we point out the following;

The use of chemical weapons in Syria is of grave concern to the peace and security of the international community. Japan condemns the use of chemical weapons by Syria, as the third report of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) concludes. We commend the professional, impartial and independent work conducted by the Technical Secretariat, which came to their conclusions through scientifically analyzing the vast amounts of information and considering a range of possible scenarios. We strongly oppose any attempt to undermine their invaluable work.

With regard to the Syrian chemical weapons dossier, Japan welcomes the twenty-fifth round of consultations with the participation of all Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) members, which was held from 30 October to 5 November. Japan expects that tangible results should be made and urges Syria once again to ensure accountability for the incidents in which the use of chemical weapons were confirmed, through full cooperation with the activities of the Technical Secretariat, including the DAT.

Regarding the poisoning of Mr Alexei Navalny with the use of a chemical nerve-agent of the “Novichok” group, Japan urges Russia to cooperate and provide a prompt clarification of this case.

The possible use or threat of use of chemical weapons in Ukraine is also of grave concern. Japan expresses concern over the reports that Russia has used riot control agents on Ukrainian territory as a method of warfare. In this regard, we consider the Russian Federation’s responses were insufficient to ease our concern.

Mr Chairperson,

The abandoned chemical weapons (ACW) project in China is one of the most important issues in the Convention for Japan. Japan has made the utmost efforts for the progress of the destruction of ACW in China. As of 31 October 2023, Japan has collected approximately 110,000 items and completed the destruction of approximately 83,000 of them. Japan has been making the best possible efforts for the steady implementation of the destruction plan beyond the year 2022 while appreciating the appropriate cooperation with China. Japan and China held discussions on a medium-to long-term plan of the excavation and recovery early this month based on Japan’s draft. We hope to see an early agreement for that plan.

Mr Chairperson,

With the end of the destruction of the declared chemical weapons stockpile, the role of the CWC and OPCW further shifts from the destruction of chemical weapons to the prevention of and response to their re-emergence. In this regard, the budget, which has been approved at this CSP, deals with extremely important issues, including the start of operations of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology, the restructuring proposals for the inspectorate. We supported the program and budget, which ensures the activities required for the OPCW to fulfil its mandate by utilizing cash surplus to mitigate pressure on assessed contributions.

In order to fulfil the mandate of the OPCW in the face of limited resources, Japan encourages the Secretariat to consider a mechanism to ensure optimal use of resources which serves to improve the implementation of the Results-based Management (RBM).

Mr Chairperson,

Japan invites the Secretariat to continue its efforts to become a more effective and efficient organization that is composed of highly qualified professionals ensuring as wide a geographical basis as possible and gender balance while reinforcing knowledge management. It is also important to apply a tenure policy in a more flexible manner in order to effectively meet their organizational and programmatic needs while retaining the non-career nature of the organization.

Mr Chairperson,

Industrial inspections are of importance among the discussions of the implementation of the Convention. Japan will be actively participating in the on-going discussions at the industrial clusters, in order to consider concrete measures for sustainable and efficient industrial inspections.

Mr Chairperson,

Japan urges the Secretariat to continue to make effort for achieving the full universality of the Convention. We reiterate the importance of maintaining the readiness for the accession of States not Parties, in particular those who may accede to the Convention as possessor States.

Mr Chairperson,

It is important that all States Parties must stand together in order to effectively deal with the threat of the use of chemical weapons amidst

the ever-changing security environment and advances in science and technology. Japan expects that all States Parties unite to work together in the spirit of cooperation and reiterate our commitment to the Convention.