

Statement of Japan
By H.E. Ambassador MINAMI Hiroshi,
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My delegation would like to echo many voices in this room. Japan believes that the recent development in the Syrian Arab Republic is providing us with an important and historic opportunity. In order to solve the longstanding CW dossier on Syria and to prevent the reemergence and proliferation of chemical weapons, it is essential for all States Parties to unite in further supporting the efforts of both the TS and Syria.

The historic visit to Damascus by the DG in February was very timely, and it provides solid foundation for the way forward in addressing CW issues. In this context, Japan strongly commends the efforts of DG and Ambassador of Qatar in navigating complex circumstances and advancing meaningful progress towards full compliance with the CWC.

My delegation would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the FM Al Shaibani of Syrian Government for his attendance to and statement in this session. My delegation was extremely encouraged to hear the commitment by the Syrian Government to cooperate with the OPCW and to comply with the obligations under the CWC. Also, my delegation is pleased with the appointment of Mr. Olabi as the focal point.

The transition of power in Syria presents a critical momentum to ensure accountability for the use of CW. In this regard, the visit by a member of the IIT in February marks an important first step. My delegation is very encouraged to hear from FM Al Shaibani that the Syrian Government will address the issue of accountability. Japan stresses the need to address the impunity gap.

It is not an easy task, as many people and, many delegations pointed out. It is a

very complexed process, and it will face many challenges, such as need for human and financial resources, logistical and technical support, and capacity building. Japan remains fully committed to this matter, and it is high time for States Parties to be united to show the solidarity.

