



JAPAN

Statement

by

**H.E. Ambassador MINAMI Hiroshi,
Permanent Representative of Japan to the OPCW, and
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

**At the One Hundred and Eighth Session
of the Executive Council of the OPCW**

The Hague, 4-7 March 2025

Mr. Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

I would like to commence by extending my profound gratitude to Executive Council Chairperson, Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral, for his outstanding chairmanship. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for his exceptional leadership and comprehensive report.

Mr. Chairperson,

Japan views the recent visit to Syria by the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat as highly productive. We appreciate the Director-General's strong leadership and the Technical Secretariat's swift response. We remain hopeful for progress on the chemical weapons dossier and we would like to request Syria to continue its cooperation to achieve tangible results. In that sense, I am looking forward to a visit and participation by the Syrian Foreign Minister, al-Shaibani for the tomorrow's session. We underscore the critical importance of proper management and control of all chemicals and related infrastructure within Syrian territory. The use of chemical weapons is unacceptable, and Japan stresses the need to address the impunity gap. We reaffirm our commitment to mechanisms that uphold accountability. We believe the OPCW must have the full capacity to investigate all alleged incidents of chemical weapons use. We highlight the essential roles played by the FFM and the IIT in this regard. Japan takes note of the increasing needs of Syria-related missions and stands ready to provide support along with the international community.

Mr. Chairperson,

On Ukraine, Japan expresses its grave concern over the findings of the latest TAV report. This marks the second time the OPCW has confirmed the presence of CS along the confrontation line in Ukraine. We reiterate that the use of riot control agents (RCAs) as a method of warfare constitutes a clear violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). We note with regret that Russia has yet to provide a meaningful response to the inquiries posed by States Parties regarding the alleged use of RCAs. Transparency and accountability are fundamental to upholding the integrity of the CWC, and we urge Russia to address these concerns without delay. Japan reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We commend the OPCW for its dedicated efforts in assisting Ukraine to counter the threat of chemical weapons use. We trust that the Technical Secretariat will continue to fulfil its mandate with impartiality, professionalism, and commitment to the principles of the Convention.

Mr Chairperson,

Japan would like to update the progress of the Abandoned Chemical Weapons (ACW) project in China. Japan has been making the utmost efforts to this end. By the end of January 2025, Japan has declared approximately 154,000 items and completed the destruction of approximately 119,000 of them. We will report on the progress of the ACW project in detail manner under the relevant agenda item in this EC.

Mr. Chairperson,

Before concluding my statement, I would like to remind that the 20th of March this year marks the 30th anniversary of the Tokyo Subway Sarin attack. It was an unprecedented case of chemical terrorism perpetrated by a non-state actor. This unforgiven crime took 14

innocent lives and left nearly 6,000 people suffering from its devastating effects.

Japan plans to hold a side event during the lunchtime on Thursday the 6th, co-hosted by the United States. This event will draw lessons from this tragic incident and underscore the critical importance of addressing the threats from chemical weapons and chemical terrorism.

I would like to request that this statement be considered as an official document and published in the official website and catalyst.