

**Statement of Japan 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 29th Session of the Conference of the States Parties of the OPCW The Hague, 25-29 November 2024 Agenda item 9 (d)**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are gravely concerned by the recent report issued by the Technical Secretariat on November 18th, which found that samples analyzed by OPCW-designated laboratories indicated the presence of a riot control agent, specifically CS, in samples collected in Ukraine. Article 1, paragraph 5 of the Chemical Weapons Convention clearly prohibits the use of RCAs as a method of warfare.

In this connection, we reiterate our request to Russia to clarify this situation. It was Russian state media itself that reported the use of RCAs by the Russian military. It is regrettable that, to date, we have not received a credible response from Russia to the questions raised. Instead, we continue to hear misleading narratives aimed at further obscuring the issue, similar to the cases of Mr. Alexei Navalny and the Salisbury attacks.

We appreciate the professional assistance provided by the Technical Secretariat to Ukraine and sincerely hope that the citizens of Ukraine are kept safe from the threat of chemical weapons. We express our full support and trust in the Technical Secretariat, specifically the Technical Assistance Visit (TAV) team. Japan remains fully seized of the matter.

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