

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,

Japan is deeply concerned about the lack of progress in the Syrian chemical weapons dossier. Despite the tremendous efforts made by the Technical Secretariat, 19 outstanding issues remain. It has been more than 10 years since Syria's accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention. Japan urges Syria to fully cooperate with the Technical Secretariat to resolve all outstanding issues.

Japan recalls the establishment of the Investigation and Identification Team in 2018 followed a legitimate procedure under the Convention. We reject any allegations that the IIT was "illegally" established. On the contrary, the IIT was established with the support of the majority of States Parties. We commend the professionalism, independence, and impartiality of all teams within the Technical Secretariat, including the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT), the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), and the IIT.

As a country that suffered a chemical attack in the 1990s, Japan cannot overemphasize the importance of ensuring accountability for the use of chemical weapons. There should be no impunity for the use of such weapons, and we express our full support for the international commitment to combat impunity.

Check against delivery