



JAPAN

**Statement**

**by**

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Mr. Chairperson,  
Director-General,  
Distinguished delegates,

First of all, please allow me to start by assuring you, Executive Council Chairperson, Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral, of the continued support from me and my delegation. Also, let me express my gratitude to Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Council, for the respective reports.

Mr Chairperson,

At the outset, let me start by thanking all the supports from the Technical Secretariat and Executive Council Member States for the successful conduct of a site-visit of the ACW project in China from 18 to 22 September. In this visit, the chairperson, members and observers of the Executive Council, and Director-General had the opportunity to witness the progress of the ACW project in China. This marked the first on-site visit since 2019 and Japan believes it was a fruitful opportunity for all, including myself, to gain insights of the efforts put into the ACW. Japan has continuously been making the utmost efforts by investing enormous human and financial resources for the progress of the destruction of ACW in China. As of 31 August 2024, Japan has declared approximately 127,000 items and completed the destruction of approximately 105,000 of them. We will report on the progress of the ACW project in detail under the relevant agenda item in this EC. Japan is also honoured to inform that the progress of the ACW project will be shared with other Executive Council Member States at a side event tomorrow at the Ooms room. Japan remains fully committed to making every possible effort to further advance the implementation of the ACW project.

Mr. Chairperson,

The 20<sup>th</sup> of March next year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tokyo Sarin attack. It was an unprecedented case of sarin use by a Non-State actor in public transport during rush hour, resulting in the loss of 14 lives and injuring nearly 6,000 people. We renew our determination to eradicate the use of chemical weapons by anyone, including Non-State actors. In light of our experiences to deal with chemical terrorism, Japan reiterates the importance of ensuring the capability to swiftly respond to any cases of chemical weapons use.

With regard to the Syrian chemical weapons dossier, Japan is concerned that 19 outstanding issues still remain unsolved. The most recent DG report showed that the twenty-eighth round of consultations between the DAT and the Syrian National Authority took place from 10 to 18 September. Japan expects tangible results should be made and strongly urges Syria to take responsibility by cooperating fully with the Technical Secretariat. Japan reaffirms its unwavering support for all the teams of the Technical Secretariat, including the DAT, FFM, IIT and commends the professionalism and impartial dedication demonstrated in their work.

Mr. Chairperson,

The possible use or threat of use of chemical weapons in Ukraine remains a grave concern. Japan commends the Technical Secretariat's initiatives of conducting multiple Technical Assistance Visits (TAV) in Ukraine under Article X of the Convention. The provision and training for the detection equipment, First Defender, will undoubtedly offer significant benefits in protecting the Ukrainian people from the threat of chemical weapons. Japan sincerely hopes that this will contribute to the protection of Ukrainian citizens from the continued threat of chemical weapons. Japan also reiterates our concern over the reports of the use of riot control agents on Ukrainian territory as a method of warfare. In this regard, we recall our request to the Russian Federation concerning this issue, yet Russia has not

provided a convincing explanation. We request the Executive Council to continue to assist in clarifying the matter related to the use of RCA.

Mr. Chairperson,

Japan is pleased that the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Chemical School has recently been certified as an OPCW-designated laboratory. As an institution specializing in education, training, and research on chemical protection, the JGSDF Chemical School has been striving to enhance its capability to respond to chemical weapons.

Japan believes the network of designated laboratories is a crucial asset for the OPCW and is vital to the verification regime. In this regard, this certification will promote assistance programme in order to expand the network and enhance the capacity for implementing the Convention, which ultimately contributes to preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

Mr. Chairperson,

Artificial Intelligence (AI), holds the potential to greatly support the works of the OPCW, at the same time, it is imperative that we carefully address the associated risks and challenges, ensuring that AI is not exploited for malicious purposes that could revive the threats posed by newly developed toxins and chemical weapons.

In this connection, we welcome the initiative by the Kingdom of Morocco and the Technical Secretariat to host the Global Conference on the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Advancing the Implementation of the Convention. Japan is pleased to inform that we can send our participants to make a full contribution to the discussion of the role of AI in the implementation of the Convention. We are certain that this

Conference will be a great success and mark an important step in addressing the topic of AI in the context of chemical weapons.

Mr. Chairperson

In light of the intensive discussion in the course of the introduction of the biennial budget that was adopted last year, Japan understands that the draft revised budget for 2025 is aimed at responding to the impact of unforeseeable inflation, the security requirements, and strengthening organizational capacity. We support the draft revised budget, which maintains the activities required for the OPCW to fulfil its mandate, by utilising 2022 cash surplus. Japan believes the OPCW's leadership in making efforts to contain assessed contributions by maximizing the use of limited resources and we remain committed to contributing to the sustainable operation of the OPCW moving forward.

Mr. Chairperson,

Japan urges the Technical Secretariat to continue to make efforts 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.

I request that this statement should be made an official document of the 107<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Council and be published on the OPCW external server and the public website.