

National Statement (Japan)

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral, and Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for your leadership in convening this important session of the Executive Council. We find the information shared in the briefing to be very useful and reaffirm our full support for the work of the Technical Secretariat.

1 Japan is closely monitoring the ongoing developments in Syria. We remain committed to supporting a peaceful and stable transition of power in the country. We take note of the Note Verbale issued by the Technical Secretariat on 9th December and appreciate the continued engagement of the Technical Secretariat with the relevant Syrian authorities.

2 The outstanding issues in Syria's initial declaration, as highlighted by the DAT, remain a concern. As a country that has suffered from chemical attacks by a non-state actor, we stress the importance of the proper management and control of all chemical substances and infrastructure within Syrian territory to prevent the risk of proliferation. Japan echoes the requests made to Syria by the Technical Secretariat, calling to ensure the security and integrity of all chemical weapons-related materials and facilities.

3 Japan emphasizes the importance of accountability for the use of chemical weapons and commends the key roles played by the FFM and IIT in this regard. We reiterate our commitment to international mechanisms that uphold accountability. Japan supports the impartial, independent, and professional work of all teams within the Technical Secretariat and urges all States Parties to recognize and fully cooperate with them.

4 In conclusion, Japan sincerely appreciates the OPCW's continued dedication, particularly amid the political transition in Syria, and calls on all stakeholders and States Parties to support the work of the Technical Secretariat.

Check against delivery