

**Statement by the Delegation of Japan to the OPCW at the 108th
Session of the Executive Council
Under Agenda Item 6 (f)**

Japan is gravely concerned by the recent report issued by the Technical Secretariat on 14 February, which confirmed that samples analyzed by OPCW-designated laboratories indicated the presence of a riot control agent, specifically CS. This marks the second time that the OPCW has detected CS in the frontlines of Ukraine. It is crucial to remind all States Parties that Article 1, paragraph 5 of the Chemical Weapons Convention explicitly prohibits the use of riot control agents as a method of warfare.

It is deeply regrettable that Russia has yet to provide a credible response to the questions raised by numerous States Parties, including Japan. Instead, we continue to hear misleading narratives aimed at obscuring the issue, similar to past cases such as the poisoning of Mr. Alexei Navalny and the Salisbury attacks. Once again, we urge Russia to provide clear and sufficient answers to the questions posed.

Our position to stand firmly with Ukraine has not been changed. We commend Ukraine's commitment to cooperating with the OPCW and recognize its extraordinary resilience and determination in defending its land, culture, and people despite immense hardship. Japan expects Ukraine's continued engagement with the OPCW to contribute to upholding the norms of the Chemical Weapons Convention and ensuring accountability.