



JAPAN

Statement

by

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Kingdom of the Netherlands**

**At the One Hundred and Ninth Session
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Mr. Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

First of all, I would like to begin by extending a warm welcome to Mr. Chairperson, H.E. Ambassador Thomas Schieb, for the newly constituted Executive Council. I assure you of my full support and that of my delegation. We look forward to working closely with you and all member states to uphold the principles of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

I also would like to express my gratitude to Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias. This year, the Executive Council will be engaged in the process of appointing the next distinguished Director-General. Through our engagement, we are reminded that the Director-General holds the significant responsibility demanding strong leadership and ethical commitment. We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the dedication and efforts the Director-General Arias has demonstrated.

Mr. Chairperson,
we are encouraged by the continued engagement of the ~~new~~ Syrian authority. We welcome the restructuring of the Syrian Missions, and hope that the newly established Office of Special Missions will further produce fruitful outcomes. In light of these positive developments, we also underscore the critical importance of ensuring proper control of all chemicals and related infrastructure within Syrian territory to prevent the proliferation of toxic chemicals in the region. The use of chemical weapons is unacceptable and the perpetrators must be held accountable. Japan emphasizes the crucial role of OPCW's independent, professional activities in this regard. We reaffirm our firm commitment to the OPCW's Syria-related efforts in close coordination with the international community.

The latest TAV report, which found the presence of CS in the conflict zones in the Dnipropetrovsk region is deeply concerning. This is the third time the OPCW Technical Secretariat confirmed the presence of riot control agents in Ukraine. We should remain vigilant in defending the long-standing norm against the use of chemical weapons in any context. We note with regret that Russia has failed to provide any convincing response to the inquiries posed by States Parties. We express our full trust for the impartiality and professionalism of the Technical Secretariat, as well as the analysis conducted by the OPCW-designated laboratories at the request of the Director-General. The possible use of chemical weapons in other areas of the world, is also a matter of concern. We continue to closely monitor the latest developments regarding Sudan, and reaffirm our full support for the Technical Secretariat's handling of the issue.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to welcome a series of initiatives aimed at deepening the OPCW's understanding of AI and its implications. The OPCW's proactive engagement with emerging technologies is vitally important. In this context, it is essential to underscore the crucial role and significant contribution of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) in guiding these discussions. The SAB's proactive commitment such as AI Research Challenge clearly demonstrate the OPCW's dedication to safeguarding the CWC's integrity and effectiveness.

Mr. Chairperson,

Japan would like to provide an update on the progress of the Abandoned Chemical Weapons (ACW) project in China. By the end of May 2025, Japan has declared approximately 153,700 items and completed the destruction of approximately 127,000 of them. We have consistently demonstrated our commitment to advancing this important work of implementing the destruction plan beyond the year 2022 while appreciating the appropriate cooperation with China. We look forward to continued productive collaboration. A more detailed

report will be presented under the relevant agenda item during this EC session.

Mr. Chairperson,

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Protocol, a landmark agreement that first aimed to prohibit the use of chemical and biological weapons in warfare. As we commemorate a century of global efforts to prevent the threat of chemical warfare, we reaffirm the OPCW's significant role and responsibility. We trust that all Member States will continue to strengthen our commitment and support its tireless efforts to implement the visions of the Geneva Protocol into concrete and effective actions for a world free of chemical weapons.

I request that this statement should be made an official document of the 109th session of the Executive Council, and be published on the OPCW external server and the public website.