

**General Statement by the Permanent Representative of Japan
to the Conference on Disarmament
Ambassador TAKAMIZAWA Nobushige**

2019 Meeting of States Parties (December 3rd – 6th)

1. Congratulations to the Chair

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Hwang, on assuming the chairmanship of this year's Meeting of States Parties to the BWC. I am confident that the meeting will succeed under your leadership, and I would like to assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation.

2. Meeting of Experts (MX) and Meeting of States Parties (MSP) 2019

Japan welcomes the contributions made by various experts at this year's Meeting of Experts, as well as the active discussions that took place and the useful propositions put forward by the States Parties. It is of particular significance that many States Parties recognized the core objectives of the Convention, namely to prevent the development, use, and proliferation of biological weapons, as well as the need to strengthen the Convention itself. We welcome the progress made thus far and hope that this MSP can explore areas of convergence with a view to identify practical measures to further implement the Convention.

3. Future discussions

We are encouraged to find that the discussions during this Inter-Sessional Period suggest areas of potential common ground on Science and Technology Review, discussed in MX2 and on Assistance, Response and Preparedness, discussed in MX4. Various concrete measures were proposed this year in MX2, such as the establishment of a model

code of conduct for biological scientists and a Scientific and Technological Experts Advisory Forum. Although consensus has not yet been reached on the implementation of such measures, many States Parties share the view that the Science and Technology Review Process needs to be established. As a step forward, we need to further expand the discussions and identify the measures most likely to achieve consensus at the 9th Review Conference.

States Parties also recognized the need to establish a mechanism to prepare for, respond to and provide assistance in case of the possible hostile use of biological agents and toxins. In cooperation with the ISU, Japan has organized three seminars in Geneva, attempting to consolidate the opinions of States Parties on how to operationalize Article VII. Considering that a number of suggestions have already been put forward on this topic, we must now focus on how to adopt and implement these measures.

4. Other Matters that are important to Japan

Additionally, I would like to touch upon national implementation and international cooperation as areas of priority for Japan. National implementation forms the basis of the BWC system, and among the related measures, we would like to stress the importance of Confidence Building Measures (CBM), as its submission increases the level of compliance and transparency of the Convention. We hope that the suggestions outlined in our Working Paper submitted in MX3 will be adopted and will help to increase the number of CBM submissions.

Japan also attaches great importance to international cooperation as stipulated in Article X. We have demonstrated our commitment to the implementation of Article X, including through hosting several Article VII workshops conducted in cooperation with the ISU in Asian countries. The results indicate that such workshops contribute to the enhanced national implementation of the Convention, and we would like to invite more States Parties

to make use of our international cooperation projects to strengthen their national implementation capabilities.

5. Financial issues

Lastly, I have to address financial issues. While the adoption of the Working Capital Fund and other fiscal measures was an important achievement of last year's MSP, financial issues continue to pose a serious threat to the Convention. All States Parties must promptly pay their assessed contributions in full in order for all meetings to be held as planned. Furthermore, we believe that States Parties should explore measures to increase the incentives and the sense of obligation for payment among the non- and late payers.

6. Toward the 9th Review Conference

Only two years remain until the 9th Review Conference. In order to be able to explore ways to make this Review Conference a success, it is of vital importance that each State Party fulfills the basic obligation of paying its assessed contributions. While urging all States Parties to pay their assessed contributions promptly and in full, we encourage States Parties to seek areas of convergence and work towards producing concrete outcomes at the upcoming 9th Review Conference.