

Annex

DESTRUCTION PLAN BEYOND THE YEAR 2022 FOR THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS ABANDONED BY JAPAN IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The Government of Japan and the Government of the People's Republic of China, pursuant to relevant provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (hereinafter “the Convention”) and with reference to Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Executive Council decision (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012), held consultations and jointly affirmed that they would accelerate in all aspects the destruction process of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in the People's Republic of China (ACWs), and that, while assigning the highest priority to the safety of the personnel and the protection of the environment, their best efforts will be used towards the completion of the destruction of ACWs as early as possible, and reached the following common recognition regarding the destruction plan of ACWs beyond the year 2022.

1. Destruction of ACWs with the Mobile Destruction Facility

The Government of Japan plans to complete the destruction of ACWs which are stored in the storehouses at all locations in the People's Republic of China and have already been declared to the OPCW as at 31 December 2022 (not including those buried or stored in Haerbaling and stored in the storehouses around Haerbaling) by the end of the year 2027. The Government of the People's Republic of China will provide appropriate cooperation.

The Government of Japan will continue to operate Mobile Destruction Facilities (MDFs) to carry out the destruction project at Harbin (Heilongjiang Province) and also will use a High Mobility Destruction Facility (HMDF) at the site of Wuhan (Hubei Province), Xinzhou (Shanxi Province), and Harbin (Heilongjiang Province), or their alternatives, to carry out the destruction project.

(a) Harbin site

The destruction of ACWs stored in the storehouses in Heilongjiang Province (Harbin, Jiamusi, Qiqihaer, Jixi, etc.) are planned to be completed by the end of the year 2027.

(b) Wuhan site and Xinzhou site or their alternatives

ACWs stored in the storehouses located outside Heilongjiang Province will be destroyed. The destruction project at the Wuhan site is planned to be completed by the end of the year 2024, and the destruction project at the Xinzhou site is planned to be completed by the end of the year 2025.

2. Destruction of ACWs in Weijin, Liaoyuan (Jilin Province)

The Government of Japan plans to select and confirm by the end of the year 2024 the technology and facilities to be used for the destruction of ACWs in Weijin, Liaoyuan, start the destruction operation in early 2026, and complete the destruction of the ACWs as early as possible. The Government of the People's Republic of China will provide appropriate cooperation.

3. Destruction of ACWs in Haerbaling (Jilin Province)

The Government of Japan plans to complete the destruction of ACWs which are buried and stored in Haerbaling and ACWs which are stored in the storehouses around Haerbaling, by the end of the year 2027, using the newly installed Large Destruction Facilities (Haerbaling Large Facility). The Government of the People's Republic of China will provide appropriate cooperation.

4. Destruction of other ACWs

The Government of Japan and the Government of the People's Republic of China have confirmed the existence of ACWs in locations such as Jiamusi (Heilongjiang Province), Shangzhi (Heilongjiang Province), Hunchun (Jilin Province) etc, as a result of joint investigations. The Government of Japan, in consultation with the Government of the People's Republic of China, will make a medium to long term plan of the excavation and recovery at Jiamusi, Shangzhi and Hunchun by the end of the year 2023, and use its best efforts to move forward and implement such a plan.

With respect to possible ACWs at Mudanjiang (Heilongjiang Province), Yichun (Heilongjiang Province) and Dunhua (Jilin Province), of which the Government of Japan has already been informed by the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Government of Japan will complete its investigation and confirmation by the end of the year 2023, and use its best efforts, in good faith, to complete the excavation and recovery at Mudanjiang, Yichun and Dunhua by the end of the year 2025, in accordance with the results of the investigation and confirmation.

In order to improve the efficiency of the excavation and recovery operations, the Government of Japan will actively conduct research to improve technologies regarding detection, excavation and recovery of ACWs both underwater and underground, as well as improve the related equipment, machinery and operational method.

With respect to possible ACWs of which the Government of Japan has already been informed by the Government of the People's Republic of China as at 31 December 2022 and which have been stored temporarily in storehouses in various areas, the Government of Japan will use its best efforts, in good faith, to complete its investigation and confirmation by the end of the year 2023. The Government of Japan will declare weapons that are identified as ACWs to the OPCW, and plans to complete their destruction by the end of the year 2025.

With respect to ACWs already confirmed through joint investigations that are to be declared to the OPCW, as well as those which may subsequently be confirmed through the joint investigations, the Government of Japan will faithfully implement, in accordance with the Convention, its obligations as the Abandoning State Party.

5. Storehouses

To safely store and concentrate ACWs and possible ACWs discovered in various areas, the Government of Japan and the Government of the People's Republic of China will promote the standardisation and consolidation of ACW storehouses through consultation and the formulation of a reasonable plan.

6. Information on traces of ACWs

To effectively eliminate the threats and harm posed by ACWs to the lives and property of the Chinese people and the safety of China's ecological environment, and to provide convenience for the excavation and recovery and destruction projects in the future, the Government of Japan will continue to use its best efforts to collect, and promptly provide to the Government of the People's Republic of China, information on chemical weapons abandoned on Chinese territory by the former Japanese army, and cooperate proactively with the Government of the People's Republic of China with a view to full-scale investigation and confirmation activities on traces of ACWs.

7. Consultations

Taking into consideration the importance of the safety of the personnel and the protection of the environment, as well as technical elements, the Government of Japan and the Government of the People's Republic of China may hold consultations with a view to the adjustment of the aforementioned plans in each section, according to the progress of the destruction.

With a view to achieving the safe and efficient destruction of ACWs as early as possible, both sides may consider a reasonable adjustment of the plan through consultation and submit the adjusted plan to the Council for its approval, in cases in which (i) the destruction of ACWs declared to the OPCW after 31 December 2022 precedes that of ACWs which have already been declared to the OPCW as at 31 December 2022, or (ii) the destruction projects were to be cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19 or other reasons that cannot be attributed to either side.

The Government of Japan and the Government of the People's Republic of China will continue to consult on ways towards the earliest possible, safe, effective, and complete destruction of ACWs.

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