



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement by ICHIKAWA Tomiko
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative
of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
At the First Committee of the 79th Session
of the General Assembly

-Thematic Debate: Other Weapons of Mass Destruction-
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Madam Chair,

Japan remains fully committed to multilateral efforts for arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, which are essential for international peace and security.

Japan stresses the importance of strengthening and universalizing the central pillars in the fight against the use of weapons of mass destruction, such as the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)

Madam Chair

The repeated incidents of the use of chemical weapons in recent years represent a significant concern and it is imperative that we take action to prevent further occurrences.

Japan is deeply concerned by reports that Russia has used chemical weapons and riot control agents as a method of warfare in Ukraine. If this is indeed the case, it constitutes a violation of Article 1 of the CWC.

Japan reiterates its call for Syria to take accountability by addressing all outstanding issues related to reports of its chemical weapons programme. Japan reaffirms its unwavering support for all the teams of the OPCW Technical Secretariat, including the DAT, FFM, IIT and commends the professionalism and impartial dedication demonstrated in their work.

Madam Chair,

Japan has continued to expend its utmost efforts to make progress in the destruction of Abandoned Chemical Weapons (ACW) in China by investing its human and financial resources in line with the CWC.

Japan has been accelerating the progress of the ACW destruction project. In 2023, the number of ACW declared doubled, and the number of ACW destroyed quadrupled compared to 2022. While the destruction process for 2024 is underway, the number of both declared ACW and destroyed ACW is expected to be greater than last year. By the end of August, Japan declared approximately 127,000 ACW and completed the destruction of approximately 105,000 ACW. In accordance with the Destruction Plan beyond 2022, Japan will steadily implement the project in constructive coordination with China for its completion as soon as possible.

Madam Chair,

In 2025, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the BWC and the centenary of the 1925 Geneva Protocol. We must seize this opportunity to further accelerate the strengthening of the BWC.

In this regard, Japan welcomes the deepening of discussions among States Parties in the Working Group since 2023. In particular, we reiterate the decision at the 9th Review Conference to develop two mechanisms, one to facilitate and support the full implementation of international cooperation and assistance under Article X, and the other to review and assess scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention and to provide States Parties with relevant advice. Japan continues to contribute to the early establishment of both mechanisms.

Madam Chair,

Japan attaches great value to preserving and strengthening the United Nations Secretary-General's Mechanism for investigation of the Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons as the only available tool to

independently investigate any cases of biological weapon attacks.

Japan also celebrates the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1540. Strengthening its implementation is important as a basis for tackling the threat of WMD proliferation to non-State actors. Japan's contribution of approximately 1 million US dollars to UNODA was utilized for the appointment of Ms. Amanda Cowl as the first Regional Coordinator to promote implementation in the Asia-Pacific region, the first peer review of the Asia Pacific region between the Philippines and Singapore, as well as various 1540 regional workshops such as in Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Indonesia. Japan will continue to support the implementation of the Resolution.

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