

# Japan

DELEGATION OF JAPAN TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF JAPAN  
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION  
ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND  
STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS  
AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

5 December 2005, Geneva

## **Introduction**

At the outset, I would like to extend to you, Mr. Freeman, my warm congratulations on your assumption of the chairmanship of this meeting of the States Parties to the BWC. I assure you of my delegation's unwavering support as you guide us to a fruitful conclusion. I would also like to thank the Secretariat and all those who have put great time and effort into preparing this meeting.

### **Three-Year Programme of Work: assessment of this year's work**

Mr. Chairman, the topic of this year, "Codes of Conduct for Scientists" is extremely important in the context of the BWC. These codes will strengthen the BWC regime, by avoiding the risk of the misuse of dangerous pathogens and research results handled by scientists.

Throughout the Meeting of Experts in June, a diverse range of input was gained from the participating researchers and scientists. Furthermore, the preparation for and the follow-up to the meeting generated an awareness of the issues relating to, amongst others, the ethical responsibilities of scientists, both domestically and internationally. Japan hopes that the dissemination and exchange of information and ideas regarding various codes and the problems of dual use will be further advanced among the scientific community and society as a whole.

The synthesis paper prepared by the Chairman is an excellent compilation of the discussions of the Meeting of Experts and a very useful basis for further considerations, examinations and improvement of codes of conduct for scientists.

### **Japan's views on "Codes of Conduct for Scientists"**

From the perspective of strengthening the BWC, the "Codes of Conduct for Scientists" encompasses a number of important ideas. A great deal of relevant rules and regulations

already exist, and their contents vary greatly between countries, institutions and professional organizations. It is therefore useful that we specify common elements that could be used to improve or develop codes of conduct specific to individual institutions or organizations.

On this point, Japan will circulate a non-paper entitled "Possible Elements for Codes of Conduct for Scientists". It may complement the Chairman's synthesis paper and could be utilized as a benchmark to establish and improve laws and regulations in individual countries.

### **The Sixth Review Conference**

Mr. Chairman, the three-year programme of work will be completed with the conclusion of this meeting. One of our tasks at the Sixth Review Conference next year will be to consider the work of the meetings for the past three years and decide on any further action. Therefore, it is essential at this stage, for the States Parties to commence preparatory work, such as examine the outcomes of these meetings, identify the elements that can contribute to the strengthening of the BWC, and specify concrete further actions.

This meeting will be the last opportunity for many States Parties to meet before the Preparatory Committee next year. Therefore, for the successful outcome of next year's Review Conference, Japan would like to encourage the States Parties to make full use of this opportunity to informally exchange their views. Furthermore, in order to ensure the smooth commencement of the Preparatory Committee, Japan hopes that the necessary procedural arrangements will be made without delay.

Thank you.