

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Mari Amano  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Head of the Delegation of Japan  
to the Conference on Disarmament**

**at the 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  
(BWC)**

**General Statement**

**Geneva, 10 December 2011**

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished colleagues,

At the outset, I would like to extend my congratulations to you, Ambassador Dermi, on your assumption of the Chair to the 2012 meeting of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC). We assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation. Japan also associates fully with the JACKSNNZ statement delivered by the distinguished delegate from Canada.

Mr. Chairman,

I think it is appropriate to begin by congratulating the Republic of the Marshall Islands on its official accession to the BWC as its 166th member. Japan also welcomes the consensus decisions of the 7th Review Conference last December which laid out important measures contributing to the strengthening of the implementation of the Convention. Among those, we place particular emphasis on the following three areas.

First, as one of the leading countries in the field of biotechnology, we strongly recognize the necessity to review scientific and technological progress in the context of the BWC. The rapid advancement in biotechnology has benefited mankind, but at the same time, threats posed by the misuse or illicit use of advanced science and technology have been growing. States Parties should continually follow recent developments in the field of life science, and reflect those developments in the national implementation of the Convention, as appropriate, to prevent the possession and use of biological weapons by both states and non-states actors. In this regard, Japan believes that it is essential for scientists to get involved in the introduction of educational programmes, the establishment of voluntary codes of conduct in dual-use issues, and the promotion of further awareness activities. Japan plans to share information on its efforts related to these activities during the side event on biosecurity education organized by Canada and the University of Bradford tomorrow.

Second, Japan attaches great importance to strengthening national implementation in order to further reinforce the BWC. We consider that it would be beneficial if each State Party enhanced national implementation and shared their experiences among each other. In this

regard, CBMs not only promote transparency and increase mutual trust among States Parties, but also play a role in reviewing the domestic state of national implementation. Japan calls on more state parties to submit CBM returns and would like to see active discussions on how to promote participation in CBMs during the inter-sessional process.

Third, on an ongoing basis, Japan has been deeply engaged in international cooperation bilaterally and with international organizations, universities, and research institutions. In exercising international cooperation under Article X, Japan is of the view that it is necessary to consider the following points. 1) Assistance should meet the differing circumstances of each recipient state; 2) such assistance needs to be carried out in a manner that contributes to the non-proliferation of biological weapons; 3) multilateral, bilateral, and regional cooperation should be coordinated to avoid duplication; 4) assistance should contribute to the promotion of biosecurity and biosafety; and, 5) assistance should aid the development of human resources through education and training.

Mr. Chairman,

Although the last Meeting of Experts in July was fruitful with many inputs from various experts, we also heard that more focused and tailored discussions should be undertaken. In this connection, Japan hopes that the 2012 Meeting of States Parties will map out a future direction for the effective use of the inter-sessional process from 2012 to 2015 and is ready to actively participate in the discussions to this end.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.