



DELEGATION OF JAPAN  
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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Statement delivered by Ambassador Ichiro Ogasawara  
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Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament  
The Preparatory Committee for the Ninth Review Conference of the  
Biological Weapons Convention

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Vice-Chairs,

At the outset, I would like to express our profound gratitude to you, the Vice-Chairs, for assuming this important role as acting Chairpersons of this Preparatory Committee during this unprecedented difficult situation. The same gratitude also goes to the Implementation Support Unit for organizing this Committee. I would like to assure you, Vice-Chairs, of the full support and cooperation of my delegation.

Mr. Vice-Chairs,

Russian aggression against Ukraine constitutes the large part of the unprecedented situation I have just referred to. I would like to reiterate Japan's basic position on this matter. This Russian aggression constitutes an attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force and shakes the foundation of international order of which the BWC is also an important part. This Russian aggression constitutes a flagrant violation of international law

and is totally unacceptable. Japan condemns these actions in the strongest terms. Japan is also seriously concerned about the potential use of weapons of mass destruction. We would like to make it clear that the use of any weapons of mass destruction, including biological weapons, by any entity or under any circumstances, cannot be tolerated.

We are aware of the allegation by the Russian Federation concerning biological weapons developments in Ukraine. However, Ukraine has been a State Party to the BTWC since its entry into force. It has also regularly submitted Confidence Building Measures (CBM) Reports attesting to its commitment to the obligations provided for by the Convention. In addition, the statement by the G7 Global Partnership read out by the German Ambassador clarified that Global Partnership members, including Japan, “have worked together with Ukraine to increase the safety and security of facilities dealing with sensitive nuclear, biological and chemical materials for exclusively peaceful purposes and to support and enhance protective capabilities against the abuse of such materials”. Japan strongly regrets that Russian allegations are being misplaced upon these cooperation programs conducted for our common goal of stemming WMD proliferation.

Vice-Chairs,

The Covid-19 pandemic constitutes another part of the unprecedented situation I have referred to at the outset. Japan believes that this pandemic

highlighted the need to strengthen the BWC in order to address biological risks among States Parties more than ever. That is why it is extremely important to ensure the success of the Ninth Review Conference, and to secure concrete measures to strengthen the Convention.

As the vice chairs explained at the outset of the meeting the President-designate of the Ninth Review Conference has not yet been selected, without whom the Review Conference cannot take place. At the same time, it is more important than ever before for the States Parties and the President-designate to be well prepared in their respective capacities towards the Ninth Review Conference, not least given the impact the COVID-19 pandemic brought about. With a view to giving an adequate leading time for their preparation, I encourage States Parties to discuss and agree on the postponement of the Ninth Review Conference.

During the intersessional period, Japan chaired the 2020 BWC Meeting of Experts 2 last year. At the MX2, we welcomed substantive discussions conducted among States Parties and many proposals made against the backdrop of rapid progress in science and technology. Among these, Japan believes the "The Tianjin Biosecurity Guidelines for Codes of Conduct for Scientists" proposed by China and Pakistan could be one tangible outcome of the Review Conference. We hope also views on the issue of a science and technology review mechanism will be further converged so as to eventually lead to a concrete outcome of the Review Conference.

Vice-Chairs,

Japan encourages the submission of CBMs that contributes to enhance transparency and confidence between States Parties. Japan has submitted several working papers and made numerous presentations on how to prepare CBMs during the current intersessional period. The submission rate of CBMs is still far from satisfactory and Japan will continue to contribute to improving the submission rate by providing assistance to countries in need.

Vice-Chairs,

As the prevention of the proliferation of biological weapons, whether by states or by non-state actors, is indispensable to maintain international peace and security, Japan has carried out diverse projects to strengthen the national implementation capacity of States Parties.

Last week in Geneva, Japan had the pleasure to finance three workshops organized by the ISU and the UN Office for Disarmament, with special focus on strengthening the BWC-related capacity in ASEAN countries.

These workshops form the concluding part of a series of projects that Japan has pleasure to finance. Japan will continue to provide cooperation and support under the BWC, both bilaterally and through international

organizations.

Vice-Chairs,

Cooperation and information exchange with relevant international organizations such as the WHO and OIE are of great value to improve the effectiveness of the BWC and to strengthen the implementation of the Convention. Japan is of the view that a greater synergy among these organizations should be further developed.

Vice-Chairs,

As mentioned above, during the intersessional period, Japan has been working with other States Parties and the ISU to significantly strengthen the BWC. Japan is willing to contribute actively to the discussions at the Ninth Review Conference in order to achieve an outcome that is broadly acceptable among the States Parties.

Vice-Chairs,

To conclude, in the context of a changing security environment and advances in science and technology, as well as lessons learned from the pandemic, our shared goal of strengthening the Convention needs to be materialized to better address the threat of the use of biological weapons. Japan reiterates its

commitment to the BWC and calls upon all States Parties to show the utmost spirit of unity and cooperation in the discussions leading up to the Ninth Review Conference, including in those pertaining to the election of the President-designate and the possible decision on its postponement.

Thank you, Vice-Chairs.