



**Statement by Mr. Shigeru UMETSU,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Delegation of Japan to the
Conference on Disarmament
Working Group on the Strengthening of the Biological Weapons
Convention
International cooperation and assistance
8 August 2023**

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for all the efforts of all of the team and the ISU in organizing this session of the Working Group. Please be assured of the full support and cooperation throughout your term.

Mr Chair,

Japan understands that the Rev.1 of the 9th Review Conference draft final document is a good basis for considering the topic of international cooperation and its future mechanism. The document describes the essential components of such a mechanism, in particular the advisory group, action plan, voluntary trust fund (VTF), database and strengthening of the ISU.

Japan would like to thank Canada and the Philippines, as Friends of the Chair and Facilitators for this topic, for their preparation of the draft deliverable. Their document provides a good basis for discussion.



The activities of international organizations such as the WHO and WOAHA have strong links with the BWC and these organizations are expected to play an important role that has relevance with the implementation of Article X. It is important to cooperate with these organizations while avoiding overlapping roles and activities.

We can generally support the establishment of a fund such as a voluntary trust fund for the implementation of Article X. We believe that consideration of the establishment of such a fund can be effective if it is built upon elements of leading examples of other relevant international organizations. On the issue of how to finance this fund, at this point, I would like to state that our basic position is that the fund should be financed through voluntary contributions from States Parties, and decisions on its use should involve the State Parties contributing the funds. We support strengthening the ISU in order to facilitate more organized international cooperation in the BWC.

Based on these points, Japan supports the joint proposal for strengthening international cooperation and assistance from Australia, Germany, the UK, the USA and Japan. Japan also appreciated other related working papers submitted on this topic to this Working Group. I will convey our comments in due course during this session as needed.

Finally, I would like to briefly present two working papers that Japan has submitted to the Working Group.



The first working paper is outlining what the Global Partnership is doing in the field of international cooperation to strengthen biological security as a key priority for its programs. As the Canadian delegation stated, this working paper is submitted by Japan, as Chair of the Global Partnership Working Group, together with Canada and Germany as co-sponsoring countries. I would like to announce with pleasure that the Republic of Korea and the United States also join in co-sponsoring this working paper.

Our second working paper provides examples of related activities undertaken by other relevant international organizations, not only in relation to the topic of international cooperation and assistance, but also in relation to the topics of scientific and technological developments, national implementation and assistance, response and preparedness.

We are hoping that with these two working papers, States Parties can carry out fruitful discussions at the Working Group that can contribute to promoting effective coordination and synergies between the BWC and other relevant international organizations and initiatives.

From this point of view, I would like to appreciate the panel session from the morning session involving experts from the relevant international organizations, which serve the same objective of our working papers.

(END)