DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement by ICHIKAWA Tomiko
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
At the First Committee of the 81st Session of the General Assembly
-Thematic Discussion: Other Weapons of Mass Destruction-
October 20, 2026, New York

Mr. 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. In this regard, Japan stresses the importance of strengthening and universalizing the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

Mr. Chair,
Japan is deeply concerned by reports that Russia has used chemical weapons and riot control agents as a method of warfare in Ukraine.

We note with appreciation the significant achievements made through the constructive engagement between the OPCW Technical Secretariat and the Syrian Arab Republic in resolving outstanding chemical weapons issues. Japan reaffirms its unwavering support for the Technical Secretariat's activities in Syria.

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

As the ACW project is a joint project between Japan and China, Japan is proceeding with the project while sharing perceptions with the Chinese side on various issues. We would like to point out that appropriate and timely cooperation from the Chinese side is necessary to advance the project as planned.

Japan and China jointly submitted destruction plans through the discussion to seek a feasible plan. In accordance with the destruction plan, Japan has been making the best possible efforts to complete the destruction with necessary cooperation by China. We will continue to make our efforts based on the destruction plan beyond 2022 as well.

Mr. Chair,
In this final year of the mandate of the BWC Working Group, Japan continues its active and constructive engagement in the negotiations, particularly on the establishment of two efficient, practical, and effective mechanisms. Ahead of the 10th Review Conference next year, Japan stresses the importance of strengthening the effectiveness and improving the implementation of the BWC.

Mr. Chair,
Japan also attaches great value to the UN Secretary-General's Mechanism as the only available tool to independently investigate any cases of biological weapon attacks.

Strengthening the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 is important for tackling the threat of WMD proliferation to non-State actors. Japan has been supporting its implementation in the Asia-Pacific region, including through financial contribution.

[END]