

**2008 BWC Meeting of Experts**

Statement by Mr. Shige Watanabe,

First Secretary, Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament

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Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Ambassador Avramchev on your assumption of the chairmanship for the BWC meetings of 2008. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation. Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your efforts in preparing for this meeting, including your close consultations with the regional groups and innovative initiative of poster sessions, in which two of our experts will be participating. Japan fully supports the poster sessions as a chance for distinguished experts and practitioners to introduce their area of expertise as well as activities, and to exchange views freely and frankly.

I would also like to thank the ISU for its diligent work in preparing this meeting as well as providing the States Parties with updated information in a timely manner via the BWC website.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan considers that both of this year's topics are critical for the full implementation of the BWC, particularly for preventing the development, acquisition and use of biological weapons. Since the States Parties have more or less discussed both topics in the past

meetings, Japan thinks that it is important for this Meeting of Experts to conduct discussions, build upon past outcomes and make progress on these topics.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding topic 1 - biosafety and biosecurity - the Sixth Review Conference in 2006 called upon States Parties to adopt legislative, administrative and other measures designed to ensure the safety and security of biological agents or toxins to prevent unauthorized access to and removal of such agents or toxins. We believe that there is a general understanding about the necessity of taking such measures. On Topic 1, Japan has submitted a national working paper, in addition to joining the working paper submitted by Canada in consultation with JACKSNNZ, which focuses on the importance of enforcing domestic systems for taking biosafety and biosecurity measures. In our national working paper, we stress that there is an urgent need for taking appropriate measures not only for biosafety but also for biosecurity to prevent the development, acquisition and use of biological weapons. Our working paper introduces in detail the legal, administrative and other measures that Japan has been putting into practice to fulfill the goals of the BWC. For further improving biosafety and biosecurity, our working paper recommends concrete actions and responses that should be taken nationally, regionally and internationally. Moreover, our expert from Keio Global Security Research Institute will make a presentation on this topic and will introduce the Biosecurity Project which is being implemented at the Institute.

Mr. Chairman,

As for the Topic 2, Japan has submitted a working paper in consultation with the JACKSNNZ. It emphasizes first the necessity to prevent the misuse of biotechnology, which could lead to the development of biological weapons. The working paper then discusses the significance and effects of oversight, education and awareness raising and codes of conduct respectively, and enumerates points to be discussed related to these topics. Furthermore, it highlights the importance of examining how to apply and implement these measures in order not to hinder the development of science and technology but to protect the scientific activities of well-intentioned scientists. We welcome comments and views on this working paper. In this connection, our expert will make a presentation entitled "Coping with the Challenges of the Dual-Use Aspects of Life Science Research in Japan."

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, for the success of this meeting, Japan believes that the involvement of all stakeholders, including the relevant international organizations, NGOs, the scientific community, industry, and academia is vital. With their presence today, Japan is confident that this meeting will produce input of great worth for the meeting of States Parties in December through the active discussions among experts.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman