Mr. Chairman,

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) has significantly contributed to the goals of the United Nations in terms of promoting international peace and security through disarmament by banning the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons in an effectively verifiable manner.

While we highly commend the wide adherence to the Convention, with 188 States Parties joining over the fifteen years since its entry into force, the universalisation of the CWC has become increasingly important given the current international security environment.

We praise the continued efforts made by the chemical weapon possessor states for the destruction of their stockpiles in good faith. With the verifiable destruction of 75% of all declared stockpiles of chemical weapons, the completion of the destruction process is now coming into sight. Pending its completion, the destruction of chemical weapons will still remain the core objective of the Convention.

In order to continuously adapt to the rapidly changing international security environment, it is high time for us to consider the future of the
CWC. The Third Review Conference to be held next year will be a perfect opportunity for doing so.

Against the backdrop of global efforts towards preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including to non-state actors, the CWC is expected to perform more important roles than ever in this respect.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan has steadily implemented the obligations of the CWC and has played a constructive part in promoting the effective achievement of the Convention’s objectives. Moreover, as the second largest contributor and a continuous member of the Executive Council, Japan has been heavily involved in the operation and development of the Convention. We have also been active in the field of international cooperation including assisting the relevant States Parties’ efforts towards improving national implementation of the Convention.

We take our obligations under the CWC seriously, and as such Japan is committed to the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (ACWs) in China and has achieved tangible progress through steady and sustained efforts. We have invested enormous human and financial resources in order to address the unprecedented and technically challenging tasks for the destruction of ACWs.

The results are evident. Japan has thus far destroyed more than 35,000 ACWs with a mobile destruction facility and has deployed another such facility to China in preparation for the next series of destruction operations. Moreover, we have been preparing earnestly for setting up an additional destruction facility.

With the cooperation of China, Japan is resolved to fully complete the destruction of all abandoned chemical weapons and will do its utmost to this end.
Mr. Chairman,

Like the CWC, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) has also significantly contributed to promoting international peace and security through disarmament.

The rapid advancement in biotechnology has benefited mankind, but at the same time bio-threats posed by the misuse or illicit use of advanced science and technology, particularly by non-state actors, have been growing. In this context, the universalisation of the BWC has become more important than ever before for international security.

Japan welcomes the final document adopted at the Seventh Review Conference of the BWC last December. What’s more, we hope that the valuable discussion during the current intercessional process will produce concrete results toward the next review conference on each set agenda item, namely cooperation and assistance under Article X, review of development in the field of science and technology related to the Convention, strengthening national implementation, enabling fuller participation in Confidence-Building Measures, and strengthening implementation of Article VII.

In order to strengthen the implementation of the BWC, Japan as a leading country in the field of life science as well as a member of the JACKSNNZ group, has been an active participant in the various topics under discussion in the BWC. In particular, we have been sending experts to BWC meetings to share our experience and knowledge in the areas of disease surveillance, education and awareness-raising for scientists, and other relevant issues. Japan will carry on its efforts to strengthen BWC implementation, with an especial focus on responses to the rapid advances in science and technology related to the Convention and the dual-use issues involved therein.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.