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STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. KUNIKO INOGUCHI

**AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

**AT THE
MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO
THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF
THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF
BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS
AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

10 November 2003, Geneva

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I would like to extend to you, Ambassador Toth, my warmest congratulations on your assumption of the Chairmanship of this Meeting of the States Parties to the BWC. I am confident that your diplomatic skill and rich experience, particularly in the field of the BWC, will guide us to a fruitful conclusion, and I assure you of my delegation's full support and co-operation. The Government of Japan greatly values the aims of this Meeting, and will make every possible effort to contribute to the strengthening of the BWC.

(Threat awareness and measures necessary for strengthening the BWC)

Mr. Chairman,
Not only has the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) become an imminent threat to international society, but more specifically, in today's environment overshadowed by the 2001 anthrax incidents, bio-terrorism poses a real threat to our daily lives. There is a pressing need for more co-operation and collaboration within the international community to combat such threats for the peace and security of all nations.

(BWC strengthening process and Japan's position)

Mr. Chairman,
Under these circumstances, the Government of Japan wholeheartedly welcomes the adoption by consensus of a three-year programme of work at the resumed meeting of the BWC Review Conference in November last year, representing a great leap forward in the continued efforts by States Parties toward the strengthening of the BWC.

To encourage States Parties to realize prohibition and non-proliferation responsibilities, enhancement of a follow-up process is necessary. This process can be best implemented if all States Parties can share a strong sense of ownership and self-reliance towards such efforts.

Such motivation for States Parties to carry out this responsibility can be created, for example, through international conferences which provide a venue for information exchange and reporting. To post a detailed report containing practices of States Parties on a web site and to make it accessible to all States Parties is another effective method. It is also important to support capacity building of States in pursuing non-proliferation responsibilities.

(Objectives for this Meeting)

Mr. Chairman,

The Meeting of Experts held in August this year was the first meeting to take place under the framework of the agreed programme of work. Japan, for its part, submitted national papers to the Meeting and also shared expertise on measures to enhance bio-security, so as to provide material to stimulate discussion. Thanks to the valuable contribution of the Chairman, Ambassador Toth, and numerous participants, the two week Meeting resulted in much lively discussion, leading to a useful conclusion.

The outcome of the August Meeting shows that the said new approach on arms control and non-proliferation is in the making. Each country needs to cooperate closely in order to establish this new approach.

Mr. Chairman,

Outcomes from the Meeting of Experts could be used as a basis for developing discussion during this Meeting of States Parties. In the Meeting of Experts,

human resources development and information sharing in this field. Japan plans to convene similar seminars in the next four years and we hope that they will prove useful in further strengthening the BWC process in the future.

(Conclusion)

Mr. Chairman,

Japan will make a positive contribution to this Meeting of the States Parties to the BWC in order to achieve concrete results. By working together towards a common goal, I am confident that we can succeed in furthering the international aim of a world free from the threat of biological weapons.

Thank you.