

**Formal Consultative 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**

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**2022 Meeting**

**Geneva, 26 August and 5-9 September 2022**

Item 6 of the agenda

**Respective outstanding questions by the Russian Federation  
to the United States and to Ukraine concerning the fulfilment  
of their respective obligations under the Convention in the context  
of the operation of biological laboratories in Ukraine**

**Statement delivered by Minister Shigeru  
UMETSU Deputy Permanent Representative,  
Delegation of Japan to the Conference on  
Disarmament, Formal Consultative Meeting of the  
Biological Weapons Convention**

**Submitted by Japan**

Mr Chairperson,

1. First of all, I would like to express our appreciation that you have accepted this important and difficult task, please be assured of the full support and cooperation of this Delegation.

Mr Chairperson,

2. Russia's claims name and criticise the projects that the U.S. has been implementing in Ukraine to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related materials. Russia also claims that Ukraine has been conducting biological activities in violation of the BWC on its territory. However, we are aware that Russia's aggression against Ukraine is a violation of international law, and these claims that it is trying to use to justify its actions, without regard of criticism from the international community and without stopping such violations, are neither credible nor convincing.

3. The Government of Japan participates in the current consultations as it considers that the process of BWC Article V consultations are important from the perspective of strengthening the implementation of the BWC. This is the second case in which Article V has been triggered, and we consider this to be an extremely important opportunity to set a precedent for the future invocation of Article V. We appreciate the fact that the U.S. and Ukraine have actively responded to requests for consultations and been providing explanations on the facts. We observe that yesterday's joint presentation by the US and Ukraine adequately and convincingly addressed the questions raised by Russia.

Mr Chairperson,

4. Russia criticizes the United States' non-proliferation projects related to weapons of mass destruction and related materials that have been implemented in Ukraine. However, Japan has also made similar efforts in the former Soviet Union under the framework of the Global Partnership (GP) to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related materials. Russia's criticism is therefore absolutely unacceptable.



5. Japan's good-will efforts include, for example, a cooperation project for the dismantling of Russian retired nuclear submarines and a nuclear security enhancement project for the Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. The former was highly evaluated for its concrete results at the Deauville Summit in May 2011. The latter was introduced in the Ukraine-Japan Country Reports at the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit in March 2012. Moreover, these projects were clearly implemented in a transparent manner.

Mr Chairperson,

6. Prior to this consultative meeting, a joint statement was issued by the countries participating in the Biological Threat Reduction Program (BTRP), which is implemented as part of the Coordinated Threat Reduction (CTR) program. It was noted that cooperation activities under the framework of the BTRP are implemented in a transparent manner and for peaceful purposes, such as protecting the health of humans and animals, and they have nothing to do with weapons. In addition, during this meeting, some other Global Partnership programs were introduced in some statements, including reaffirmations that these programs are being implemented with the view to strengthening international cooperation for peaceful purposes based on Article X of the BWC. Japan's activities in this regard have the same objectives as the activities mentioned in these joint statements and national statements, Japan once again fully supports such activities, and would like to make it clear that Japan also shares the same position as that stipulated in these statements.

7. Finally, Japan strongly hopes that Russia will immediately end its illegal aggression against Ukraine, and drop all inappropriate and groundless allegations. We also reiterate our country's commitment to the BWC's biological weapons disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson.

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