Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Colleagues,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Molnár on your assumption of the Chair to the 8th Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC). I am confident that you will guide the work of the meeting to a successful conclusion, and I assure you of my Delegation’s full support and cooperation.

This year is a significant year for BWC as we are having the 8th Review Conference. Japan is determined to work with the state parties and fully commit to reach agreements to strengthen the BWC based on the discussion we have had during the intersessional process.

I would like to draw attention to a few points of particular interest for Japan.

First, we think it is necessary to make the scientific and technological development review framework more efficient and effective in order for the BWC to respond to modern biological threats. Although rapid advancement in the field of life science has benefited humankind, it also increases the potential biological threats caused by their misuse or illicit use. Nowadays, we must also be cautious of non-state actors’ threats. In this regard, States Parties, along with an involvement of industries and academic societies, should continuously follow scientific and technological development in life science and make an effort to keep BWC implementation relevant to changes in the real world.

Second, Japan has continued to provide cooperation and assistance related to the BWC bilaterally and with international organizations, academia, and research institutions. We will continue our full support upon the request from the state parties.

Third, Japan would like to reemphasize the importance of strengthening national implementation. In order to reflect the recent development of life science and maintain its effectiveness, relevant domestic legislation, biosafety and biosecurity measures, and export control need to be regularly reviewed. Enhancing the transparency of BWC implementation and increasing mutual confidence are also important to reinforce the BWC. Japan expects action to take place along with an ongoing discussion about further CBM participation and voluntary measures for strengthening confidence between States Parties on BWC implementation.

Lastly, we all share a goal to further reinforce the Convention. Japan believes that we...
manage to reinforce the BWC effectively through practical and pragmatic approaches, by building on common understanding and effective action, rather than a legally binding approach.

I thank you, Mr. Chair