



**Statement delivered by Japan
Tenth Meeting of State parties of the Convention on Cluster
Munitions
August 2022, Geneva**

Mr. President,

Allow me to congratulate you again, Ambassador Aidan Liddle of the United Kingdom, for your election as the President of the 10th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. I am particularly pleased that the 10th Meeting of States Parties, postponed for one year due to the pandemic, is now being held in person. I would like to commend Mr. President and his team for their excellent preparation under challenging circumstances. Please be assured of the full support and cooperation of my delegation. Allow me also to express my high appreciation to the ISU for their devoted efforts for promotion of the CCM.

Mr. President,

Japan is deeply concerned that instances of cluster munitions use and harm to civilians and damage to civilian objects caused by unexploded ordnance continue to occur worldwide. Furthermore, under the current severe international situation, the importance of universalizing the Convention and promoting its implementation is greater than ever. Now is the time for us, the States Parties, to renew our commitment to a world free of the casualties, suffering, and socio-economic impacts caused by cluster munitions, as affirmed in the Lausanne Declaration. In this context, it is important to review progress made in light of the Lausanne Action Plan at this meeting and to identify a path toward solid progress in the future. As you know, unexploded ordnance left behind leads to indiscriminate harm to civilians

and impedes reconstruction and development activities. It is crucial to provide sustained cooperation to stabilize the affected countries and regions and rebuild people's lives through unexploded ordnance(UXO) disposal, victim assistance and capacity building. Based on this recognition, Japan has emphasized the linkage between humanity, development, and peace, and has steadily conducted international cooperation through preventive efforts such as risk reduction education, in addition to unexploded ordnance removal and victim assistance. In 2021, in order to implement diverse projects in those fields, Japan provided assistance totaling more than US\$41 million in 18 countries and regions, including cluster munition disposal and demining activities assistance.

Mr. President,

Japan reiterates its commitment to continue its efforts to promote the Convention in cooperation with other States parties for the sake of international peace and stability and to ensure human security. I look forward to fruitful discussions during the coming four days, and I will contribute constructively to the discussions.

The invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces and the reported killing of innocent civilians by the use of various weapons, including cluster munitions, are serious violations of international law, including international humanitarian law, and Japan takes them very seriously. Under these circumstances, the importance of promoting the implementation and universalization of the Convention is increasing.

I thank you, Mr. President