



**Statement by H.E. Ambassador ICHIKAWA Tomiko
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
12th Meeting of State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
10th September 2024**

Madam President,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you, Ambassador Francisca Méndez Escobar of Mexico, for assuming the Presidency of the 12th Meeting of State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Japan appreciates the efforts made by the President and the Secretariat in organizing this meeting. Japan will spare no effort to support you and your team to conduct meaningful discussions and make concrete progress at this meeting towards promoting the implementation of the Oslo Convention.

Madam President,

Japan shares the concern of the President, States Parties and stakeholders that the universalization of the Convention is on the verge of a setback for the first time since its entry into force with the announcement of Lithuania's withdrawal in July this year, while there have been no new States Parties to the Convention since the last MSP. We call on all States Parties to renew their commitment to the Convention.

Japan condemns the acts of aggression by Russia against Ukraine and will continue to work closely with the G7 and other like-minded countries to realise a 'just and lasting peace'. In light of the continuous reports of the use of cluster munitions in Ukraine associated with this aggression, and the persistent damages caused by cluster munitions in Asia, the Middle East and other regions, the need to universalize the Oslo Convention and promote its implementation is greater than ever. On this occasion, we once again strongly call on all non-States Parties to accede to this Convention at the earliest possible date.

Even under the current challenging international security environment, we as States Parties must renew our determination and take concrete actions towards "a world free of the casualties, suffering and socio-economic impacts caused by cluster munitions", as confirmed in the Lausanne Declaration. In this regard, it is also important that States Parties reconfirm our way forward at this Conference.

Madam President,

Along with the efforts to universalize and promote the implementation of the Convention, it is important to provide sustained cooperation and support to rebuild the lives of those affected by cluster munitions through the disposal of unexploded ordnance, victim assistance and capacity building. In FY 2023, Japan provided assistance amounting to more than 28 million USD in 23 countries and regions. Japan reiterates its commitment to continuing its efforts, in cooperation with other States Parties, to achieve the goals of the Convention so as to contribute to the international peace and stability as well as to ensure human security.

Japan attaches great importance to the WPS agenda, and I am pleased to inform the Conference that Japan has joined the Joint Cross-Regional Statement on Gender Equality and the Diverse Needs and Experiences of People in Affected Communities, led by Germany and Belgium.

Madam President,

It is important to maintain financial stability in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention. It is regrettable that one day of this year's MSP has to be held in an informal format due to arrears in assessed contributions. We reiterate that the payment of assessed contributions is a treaty obligation, and call for timely and full payments.

In conclusion, Japan looks forward to fruitful discussions during the next four days, and will contribute constructively.

I thank you, Madam President.