

Statement delivered by Ambassador Ichiro OGASAWARA of Japan Group of Expert CCW Amended Protocol II 20 July 2022, Geneva

Mr. President-designate,

Thank you for giving me the floor again. Allow me to briefly touch upon the Japanese views on the IED. First of all, I would like to reiterate my sincere thanks to the IED Coordinators, Ms. Diana Esperanza Castillo (Colombia) and Colonel Pascal Levant (France). It was thanks to their commitment and support that I could fulfil my duties as President of the 24th Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, and that the updated IED Declaration could be adopted. I wish to express my gratitude to them once again.

Japan is concerned about the use of IED especially by non-state actors and its humanitarian consequences, in particular the spread of damage in populated areas. We reiterate the importance of civilian protection from the indiscriminate harms and injuries caused by IED. In response to the threat of IED, we are pleased that the update of the IED Declaration adopted in 2016 was accepted by consensus at the Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties last year.

I am confident that the commitments we have expressed in the IED Declaration have helped and will continue to help the international community to promote IED counter-measures. As IED have become more diverse and their threats more serious, it is all the more relevant for High Contracting Parties to voluntarily exchange views and share knowledge on IED related measures under the framework of Amended Protocol II. Japan will continue to cooperate with other countries and international organizations to address the problems and the threat posed by IED.

Thank you, Mr. President-designate