



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement delivered by Ambassador Ichiro OGASAWARA
Permanent Representative of the Delegation of Japan
at the 24th Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to Amended
Protocol II, Convention of Certain Conventional Weapons
15 November 2022, Geneva

Mr. President,

Please let me congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of this Conference. Please be assured of full support and cooperation of my delegation. We would also like to welcome the appointment of Ms. Tania Bañuelos Mejía as Head of the CCW Implementation Support Unit (ISU) in October of this year. The strengthening of the ISU will contribute to a better implementation of the CCW, including Amended Protocol II (AP II), in the interests of all.

The international laws and regulations pertaining to landmines, booby traps, Improvised Explosive Devices, and other similar devices, as well as appropriate frameworks for discussion have become even more critical given the current severe security environment.

I would like to underline the particular importance of AP II as a binding instrument which prohibits not only the use of landmines but also that of booby traps and other similar devices. A high priority should be given to its steady implementation and universalization. Annual reports submitted by High Contracting Parties are one means of helping verify international compliance by High Contracting Parties and are useful for improving transparency and promoting confidence-building. We believe that the submission of reports by each State is vital and would like to encourage High

Contracting Parties that have not fulfilled their reporting obligations to do so. It is of great value for High Contracting Parties to further discuss how to address the obstacles for observer States to join the Protocol and future efforts to promote universalization.

Japan has a long-standing three priorities with regard to its landmine-related assistances: (1) continuous support for clearance activities in countries with serious landmine and unexploded ordnances damage, (2) promotion of regional and South-South cooperation, and (3) comprehensive victim assistance for victims of landmines and unexploded ordnances.

Japan also emphasizes the utility of application of advanced science and technology to mine action. In this regard, we welcome the joint research project being conducted by Waseda University, several Japanese companies, and the ICRC on the use of AI and deep learning in the field of mine detection. A useful summary on this project is available on the ICRC website.

Japan takes extremely seriously and is deeply shocked by the fact that many civilians have been killed in Ukraine as a result of Russian aggression. The killing of these innocent civilians is a grave violation of international humanitarian law and is absolutely unforgivable, and we condemn it severely. We also urge Russia to comply with the Convention it has ratified on the CCW and AP II.

Thank you, Mr. President