



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

**Statement delivered by H.E. Ms. ICHIKAWA Tomiko,
Permanent representative of the Delegation of Japan to the Conference on
Disarmament
Ninth International Pledging Conference
for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
1 March 2024, Geneva, Switzerland**

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

I would like to congratulate you, Minister LY, once again on your assumption of the Presidency of the Fifth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. I wish you every success towards the Siem Reap-Angkor Summit this November and assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation. I would also like to thank you and your team, as well as the ISU, for organizing the Ninth Annual Pledging Conference today.

Mr. President,

Today marks an important milestone of 25 years since the entry into force of the Convention on 1 March 1999. Significant progress has been made under the Convention over the past 25 years, but much work remains to be done. With reports of growing use and production of anti-personnel mines in various parts of the world, we must redouble our efforts towards universalization of the Convention.

Mr. President,

I would like to reiterate the significance of the role of the Implementation Support

Unit (ISU) in the implementation of the Convention. Under the strong leadership of the ISU director, Mr. Juan Carlos RUAN, the ISU provides a wide range of support to States Parties for the implementation of the Convention. It also supports the work of the presidency and coordinating committee, through facilitating formal and informal meetings, universalization efforts, as well as promoting international support through coordination with relevant international organizations.

It is with this understanding that Japan has provided voluntary contributions to the ISU, which amounts to approximately CHF 460,000 since 2015. I have the pleasure to announce that Japan will contribute, in 2024, approximately JPY 2.8 million, which will be equivalent to about CHF 19,000 towards the activities of the ISU in 2024, subject to the budget approval. We hope our contribution will help to strengthen the effective work of the ISU. We urge other states to consider contributing to the ISU in order to ensure the continued implementation of the Convention.

Mr. President,

In addition to the direct contributions to the ISU, Japan continues to be strongly committed to the implementation of the Convention. In the fiscal year 2022, that is to say, for example, from April 2022 to March 2023, Japan extended assistance for mine action of over USD 52 million in 22 countries through relevant international organizations and NGOs. Japan has three priority areas in mine action. First, continuous support for mine clearance activities in countries with serious landmine and unexploded ordnance impacts. Second, promotion of regional and South-South cooperation. Third, comprehensive victim assistance. In particular, Japan attaches great importance to facilitating South-South cooperation among affected countries in sharing experiences and enhancing

national ownership.

Mr. President,

All stakeholders in the international community should unite and strengthen our efforts to address the various issues to achieve our shared goal of a mine-free world. The Fifth Review Conference this year will be an excellent opportunity to renew our strong commitment to accelerate our work under the Convention. Japan will actively engage and will work closely with the Cambodian Presidency towards the upcoming Fifth Review Conference, as a member of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance and the gender focal point in that Committee this year, as well as the upcoming President of the Conference of the States Parties next year.

I thank you, Mr. President.