



**Statement delivered by Mr. Shigeru UMETSU,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Delegation of Japan to the
Conference on Disarmament
Anti-Personal Mine Ban Convention
Intersessional meeting
Geneva, 21 June 2023**

Madam Chair,

Allow me to begin by thanking all Committee members and the ISU for organizing this meeting.

Japan takes seriously the fact that civilians and others are indiscriminately harmed by anti-personnel mines remaining in post-conflict countries and regions hindering their reconstruction and development. It is important to provide sustained cooperation to stabilize and secure security in such countries and regions through the clearance of anti-personnel mines, assistance to mine victims and capacity building. These efforts will also contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and respect for the commitment to "leave no one behind.

With this in mind, we will continue to play an active role as a member of the "Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance" this year, after having served as the chair of the committee last year.

Regarding mine action assistance, Japan has three priority areas. First, sustained assistance to clearance activities in countries with serious landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) damage; second, promotion of regional and South-South cooperation; and third, comprehensive assistance for victims of landmines and unexploded ordnance.

In 2022, Japan provided assistance totaling more than 52 million USD in 22 countries and regions in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and other relevant international organizations and NGOs. We consider South-South cooperation assistance, or triangular cooperation, to be an effective means of cooperation. Triangular cooperation is of particular importance in utilizing past development experience and knowledge of developing countries.

Japan, together with Cambodia, has started cooperating for landmine clearance in Ukraine, making use of Cambodia's experience and knowledge of cooperation in landmine clearance and reconstruction. In January this year, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Cambodia Mine Action Center (CMAC), which have experience in operating Japan's ALIS (Advanced Landmine Detection System), conducted ALIS use training in Cambodia and mine action training in Japan for the Ukrainian state emergency services. This will contribute to improving the safety and efficiency of demining operations. We attach particular importance to mine and UXO (unexploded ordnance) clearance which we are afraid would constitute an important issue as a prerequisite for Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction efforts. From this perspective, Japan has provided equipment related to Advanced Landmine Detection System (ALIS) to the authorities concerned of Ukraine and trucks with cranes through JICA, as well as equipment for explosive and debris removal through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Japan will continue to actively provide assistances in the area of landmines in order to contribute to the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine and of its people. We also remain committed to promoting the

implementation of the Anti-Personnel Landmines Convention across the world and will continue its efforts to realize a world free of anti-personnel landmines.

I thank you, Madam Chair.