



**Statement delivered by Mr. Shigeru UMETSU**  
**Minister-Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative**  
**Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament**  
**1st international follow-up conference to the EWIPA Political Declaration**  
**Tuesday April 23, 2024**

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

First of all, on behalf of Japan, I would like to express my gratitude to the government of Norway for their leadership in hosting the first international follow-up conference to the Political Declaration on EWIPA (Explosive Weapons in Population Areas). I would also like to thank all the panelists and speakers for their contributions.

We are here today to re-affirm the importance of civilian protection and compliance with international law under the situation of armed conflict. IHL (International Humanitarian Law) is a robust framework for regulating the damage caused of conflict and protecting victims in armed conflict. Japan reiterates its commitment to compliance with IHL.

Japan regards global peacebuilding as a priority area for international cooperation, and from the perspective of "human security", Japan attaches great importance to efforts to protect individuals and strengthen their capability at all stages, from during conflict to reconstruction and development.

Accordingly, Japan has been actively engaged in post-conflict emergency humanitarian assistance and support for reconstruction and development, including countermeasures against the use of explosives in populated areas. In the area of landmines and unexploded ordnance, Japan has continued to provide support for clearance activities, promote regional and South-South cooperation, and provide comprehensive assistance to victims. Japan is scheduled to hold chairpersonship for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in 2025, and will continue to make efforts in this area.

The EWIPA Declaration is about reconfirming the principles of IHL and to promote practical and concrete measures on those principles for the protection of civilians in armed conflict, among others.

Once again, Japan calls on all parties, including those involved in the conflict, to act in good faith, including in compliance with international humanitarian law through the implementation of the political declaration, ensuring humanitarian assistance, and providing international assistance after conflict. Japan, together with the other like-minded states, international organizations, and civil society, that have gathered at this very occasion, will continue to contribute to the international efforts to mitigate harm to civilians.

I thank you for your time, and kind attention.