



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

**Statement delivered by Ambassador ICHIKAWA Tomiko
Permanent Representative, Delegation of Japan to the
Conference on Disarmament
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Intersessional Meeting: Cooperation and Assistance
18 June 2024, Geneva**

Mr. Chair,

Japan greatly appreciates the leadership by the President of the Fifth Review Conference and his team, and thanks all members of Committees and the ISU for their tireless work in supporting States Parties for their implementation of the Convention. Japan is committed to the implementation of the Oslo Action Plan and supporting mine affected states through various assistance programmes.

In FY 2023, Japan extended its assistance for mine action by providing assistance totalling approximately 67 million USD in 20 countries and regions through relevant international organizations and NGOs, including the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and ICRC, as well as through bilateral assistance through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This represents a more than 20% increase over the previous year.

Japan attaches great importance to building the national capacities of mine affected countries based on their ownership. Japan has consistently supported the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) in enhancing its institutional capacity through the provision of equipment, various training programmes, as well as in the area of development and research. In keeping with the progress in demining within

Cambodia, Japan has also facilitated South-South cooperation in partnership with CMAC by sharing its experience and expertise with Lao PDR, Colombia and other mine affected countries. To date, more than 600 practitioners have benefited from trilateral cooperation through the JICA-CMAC partnership.

Since last year, Japan has been implementing this initiative in Africa. Together with CMAC and UNMAS, JICA organized a capacity building workshop in Nairobi last October for Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia, and South Sudan. This was followed by a study visit programme for senior governmental experts from these African partners to Cambodia in January this year. This study visit aimed to enhance national ownership, commitment and capacity of affected countries to solve their mine problems. The visit provided an opportunity for African governmental experts to learn from mine action governance and initiatives of CMAC. Through these initiatives, Japan has reaffirmed the importance of strong national ownership, commitment, and capacity building for mine affected countries. We would like to continue this approach in considering future assistance programmes in Africa.

Regarding Ukraine, Japan launched a multi-component project for the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) in 2022. The pilot phase of this project consisted of the provision of advanced mine detectors, which had been developed by using Japanese technology, and two training sessions in cooperation with CMAC on the practical use of these detectors for Ukrainian deminers in Cambodia and in Poland last year. Japan subsequently provided Ukraine with additional detectors through a grant aid project. Through technical cooperation projects, Japan, in partnership with CMAC, will continue to support Ukraine in the effective use of this equipment, and demining equipment that will be also provided.

Furthermore, I am pleased to inform this meeting that Japan has decided to host the International Conference on Ukraine Mine Action next year in Japan, following the second conference in Switzerland this year. Japan believes that this decision demonstrates its continued commitment to support reconstruction and rehabilitation of Ukraine.

Finally, at the Fifth Review Conference this year, Japan, in partnership with Cambodia, which has been pursuing efficient demining through its capacity building effort, will highlight the value and benefits of cooperation among affected states. Japan will also showcase its technologies in mine action, in particular efficient demining with the use of artificial intelligence (AI) as a new tool to improve overall efficiency in achieving a mine-free world.

Thank you, Mr Chair