



**Statement delivered by Mr. ISHIKAWA Wataru
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Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
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Item: 9. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention
(c) Cooperation and Assistance

Madame President,

Japan sincerely commends Denmark as the Chair of the Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, as well as Cameroon, Türkiye and Switzerland for their active contributions to the implementation of the Convention through the 22MSP, based on the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan (SRAAP). We also welcome the progress being made on the establishment of the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) and commend Norway's leadership in this regard.

From the perspective of strengthening cooperation and assistance, it is crucial for donor states to continue their efforts to ensure more efficient delivery of assistance, to consider support for countries and regions where assistance is lacking, to enhance coordination among donors, and to introduce innovative technologies and financing mechanisms in mine action.

Japan has consistently prioritised national ownership and capacity-building assistance for mine-affected countries themselves in its mine action assistance. Recognising that strengthening 'national ownership' and providing 'capacity-building' support are effective in promoting mine action activities, Japan has implemented various initiatives in partnership with mine-affected countries through the Comprehensive Package of Assistance to Humanitarian Mine Action, and concrete results have emerged.

From this perspective, Japan has designated 'Strengthening National Ownership and Capacity-Building Assistance' as one of this Presidency's priority themes. Through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in particular, Japan has enhanced the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC)'s capacity for implementing international cooperation and its technical development capabilities in mine action. Simultaneously, we have expanded networking among mine-affected countries and promoted triangular cooperation through partnerships with CMAC. Specifically concerning African states, we announced the 'African Mine Action Platform' during the 9th meeting of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), held in Tokyo this August, advancing these initiatives. Furthermore, Japan has undertaken dissemination and awareness-raising activities regarding the effectiveness of knowledge sharing through triangular cooperation. These Japanese initiatives are detailed in the working paper titled "Strengthening National Ownership and National Capacity for Mine Action".

Furthermore, regarding another priority theme of this Presidency, 'Strengthening of the Synergies between the Women Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda and Mine Action,' we organised a panel on this subject at the Intersessional Meeting in June. This panel facilitated the sharing of good practices among stakeholders and encouraged further discussion. We believe that strengthening synergy with WPS will contribute significantly to enhancing cooperation and assistance.

Thank you, Madame President.