



**Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties
Anti-Personal Mine Ban Convention
The Hague, 15 to 19 November 2021**

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you for your assumption of the Chairpersonship of the 19th Meeting of the States Parties, and would like to thank you and the Secretariat for your tireless efforts to organize this meeting despite the complicated and difficult conditions due to the COVID-19.

Damage caused by landmines continues to occur, underlining the importance of promoting the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty. At the same time, I am encouraged by the fact that the international community has not stopped moving towards a world free of anti-personnel mines, even during the Covid-19 pandemic, and is continuing to work on anti-personnel mine measures.

Japan is strongly committed to the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty. For many years, Japan has provided a wide range of assistance, including anti-personnel mine clearance and mine risk education, in cooperation with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), relevant international organizations and NGOs. In 2020, a total of approximately 39 million dollars was provided by Japan to projects in 21 countries.

Japan attaches great importance to the South-South cooperation in the field of mine action related assistances. For example, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is cooperating with the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) in Cambodia to promote capacity building through South-

South cooperation between Cambodia, Angola, Colombia, Iraq, Laos and other countries. Today, on the margin of the present MSP, Japan had pleasure to host a side-event entitled “*Mine Action is Peacebuilding – Rise of Cambodian Mine Action Centre as major partner of South-South cooperation and JICA’s role*”. Participants concurred that South-South cooperation has made significant contribution to achieving goals enshrined in the Convention and underlined the relevance to extend this type of cooperation beyond the current partners.

Japan, as a member of the Committee for Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance, will continue to strongly support the implementation of the Oslo Action Plan in accordance with the Oslo Declaration. It is also necessary to further promote the universalization and gender mainstreaming of the Convention.

Mr. Chair

We would like to reiterate that strengthening the financial basis of the Convention is an urgent issue in order to secure its stable operation. We look forward to constructive discussions on the establishment of a strong financial basis.

Japan will continue to commit itself to the promotion of the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty and continues its efforts to realize a world free of anti-personnel mines.

I thank you for your kind attention, Mr. Chair