



Statement by Ambassador ICHIKAWA Tomiko,

**Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
At the Fifth Review Conference
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance
28 November 2024, Siem Reap, Cambodia**

Japan attaches great importance to strengthening cooperation and assistance for mine action. In FY2023, Japan extended its assistance for mine action by providing a total of approximately 67 million USD in 20 countries and regions.

In July 2024, Japan announced, “The Comprehensive Package of Assistance for Humanitarian Mine Action” and the “Japan-Cambodia Landmine Initiative” to renew its commitment to anti-personnel mine action. Japan will continue to contribute to international mine action, by providing comprehensive support that meets the diverse needs of mine affected countries, addressing the various stages of mine action. This includes mine risk education and awareness-raising activities, capacity building support, use of emerging technologies for mine and UXO action, and victim assistance.

Since 2009, Japan has been working with Cambodia to implement triangular cooperation, including capacity building support for third countries. Recent examples are support to Colombia, Lao PDR, Angola, Iraq, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan. As highlighted in the draft Political Declaration, support for capacity building is important for strengthening national ownership. From this

perspective, we welcome the success of the first study tour using the Cooperation Assistance Fund (CAF) managed by the Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance. We look forward to further strengthening cooperation between countries affected by anti-personnel mines and promoting the sharing of best practices.

Japan has announced that it will host “the International Conference on Ukraine Mine Action” next year. We will prepare this conference with a view to providing platform to share the latest knowledge for recovery and reconstruction in Ukraine.

Considerations of gender and diversity are key principles underpinning the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and it is essential to incorporate them within the framework of international cooperation. Japan serves as a Gender Focal Point (GFP) of the Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance this year. Together with other GFPs, we submitted a Working Paper on gender and diversity mainstreaming to the Fifth Review Conference. Japan also welcomes the new draft Action Plan’s recognition of the contribution of mine action to the Women Peace and Security Agenda. Japan would like to work on further enhancing the synergies between mine action and the WPS.

Regarding the discussions on the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) in the draft Action Plan, we recognize it as part of our efforts to further strengthen cooperation and assistance. In order to ensure a sustainable and functioning framework for the VTF, it is necessary for States Parties to reach a consensus on the mechanism and guidelines, after clarifying its objectives, scope, governance, project selection criteria, etc. For this reason, we believe that at least two years are needed come to a conclusion.

During Japan's Presidency, we will work in earnest, supported by interested States Parties, to make meaningful progress to this end.

Thank you for your attention.