



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Speech by Ambassador ICHIKAWA Tomiko,
President of the 22nd Meeting of the States Parties,
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
At the Fifth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
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Your Excellency, Dr LY Thuch, President of the Fifth Review Conference

Excellencies, Esteemed Delegates,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to your Excellency, Dr LY Thuch, for your leadership and dedication to successfully conclude the fifth Review Conference. I would also like to extend my appreciation for the outstanding work done by the Cambodian presidency team, the ISU staffs and the members of the four Committees.

This year, the Convention celebrated the 25th anniversary of its entry into force. Japan has been a staunch supporter of the Convention and its core objectives since its inception. Despite various challenges, the Convention has established a solid normative framework, and demonstrated the importance of fostering a humanitarian and cooperative spirit among all stakeholders. Japan remains fully committed to the implementation of the Convention under the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan that we have just adopted, and continues its efforts to support mine affected countries and communities.

Mr. President, Esteemed delegates,

I am deeply honoured to serve as the first President of the Meeting of the States Parties under the new Action Plan. I would now like to introduce our roadmap for the work of the 22nd Meeting of the States Parties. While all areas of the Convention are critical, Japan would like to emphasize the following four key areas in the first year of the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan.

First, strengthening national ownership and capacity building assistance. Japan attaches great importance to cooperation among mine affected states through sharing experiences and best practices. Strong national ownership of the mine affected states, supported by capacity building assistance, is the key to ensure successful long-term mine action. Establishing a robust national framework, fostering partnerships and effective cooperation with international stakeholders are essential for this objective. Japan has facilitated Triangular Cooperation, in partnership with Cambodia, by sharing Cambodia's experience and expertise with several mine affected states in various regions, and will continue to promote cooperation among mine affected States.

Second, the application of advanced and emerging technologies in mine action. The government of Japan and the Japanese private sector are aiming to improve the efficiency of mine action through applying advanced and emerging technologies in innovative ways, along with existing technologies. We would like to explore the possibilities of effective future mine action, together with intergovernmental and civil society organisations.

Third, strengthening of the synergies between the Women Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and mine action. The Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan and the Political Declaration have references to synergies with international frameworks

including WPS. Japan would like to explore approaches and initiatives for further enhancing the synergies between mine action and the WPS agenda, together with states parties and stakeholders, in a concrete manner.

Last but not least, universalization. The universalization of the Convention is critical to upholding and enhancing the norm against the use of anti-personnel mines. Universalization efforts needs to be conducted in a consistent and coordinated manner. We can build upon the excellent work done by the previous presidencies. Japan has been participating in these efforts as part of the Troika. We will continue to work towards further universalization of the Convention.

In conclusion, I would like to express my deep appreciation for States Parties' trust in Japan and myself. I look forward to working with all stakeholders in the year ahead.

Thank you for your attention.