



**Statement delivered by Japan
Anti-Personal Mine Ban Convention
Intersessional meeting
Geneva, 22 June 2022**

Thank you for giving me the floor,

Regarding mine action assistance, Japan has three priority areas. First, sustained assistance to clearance activities in countries with serious landmine and UXO (unexploded ordnance) damage; second, promotion of regional and South-South cooperation, and third, comprehensive victim assistance for victims of landmines and unexploded ordnance. With regard to the second priority area, South-South cooperation, I would like to recall that my colleagues from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) made extensive presentations on South-South cooperation together with Cambodia CMAC (Cambodian Mine Action Centre) at the thematic discussion yesterday. These presentations by JICA illustrated well the benefit that international mine action community can expect from well-organized South-South cooperation.

Japan is convinced that effective mine action contributes to the realization of the “Sustainable Development Goals” and to the commitment of “no one will be left behind”. A high priority should also be given to mine action from the perspective of human security, which Japan has long advocated for.

Japan highly appreciates the work of the Committee of the Enhancement of cooperation and assistance, to which Japan is a member. Especially I would like to echo the emphasis that the chairperson placed on

national coordination mechanisms. Yesterday, the Individualized Approach meeting on Cambodia's mine action was successfully held. One of the lessons learnt emerging from the meeting, from my point of view, was a robust national structure is a key to successful long-term Mine Action also in terms of coordination both among national stakeholders and with international partners. The presentations made by representative of CMAA (Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority, and CMAC were convincing in this regard. Japan is happy and willing to continue to work closely with these two entities.

In 2021, in cooperation with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) as well as with other relevant international organizations, and NGOs, Japan provided assistance totaling more than US\$41 million across 18 countries and regions. As an example of our most recent support, in March of this year, Japan, through UNMAS, contributed a total of more than \$2.2 million to mine action projects in three countries and region, namely Palestine, Ethiopia and Afghanistan. In the Gaza Strip, Palestine, Japan is supporting post-conflict unexploded ordinance disposal and mine risk education to reduce the risk of ERW (explosive remnants of war) and landmine contamination. In northern Ethiopia, we funded the project that is supporting mine risk education for internally displaced persons and returnees to post-conflict areas. In Afghanistan, Japan plans to provide assistance in the clearance of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and landmines, as well as mine risk education. Japan attaches particular importance to the implementation of humanitarian mine action, especially because it will serve as a stepping stone to subsequent reconstruction and development.

Japan has been emphasized the importance of the application of advanced science and technology to mine action. Japan has proposed some

technologies as a part of solution to problems rising during mine action and shared its experience, on diverse occasion. In this regard, we welcome as a promising recent development the joint research project being conducted by Waseda University, several Japanese companies, and the ICRC on the use of AI and deep learning in the field of mine detection. If you are interested in this research, a succinct account can be found in ICRC internet site.

Japan remains committed to playing an active role in mine action in cooperation with partner states, the United Nations, UN member states, and civil society organizations for a better implementation of the Convention.

To conclude, Japan would like to welcome the announcement made by the US representative yesterday on the changes to US anti-personnel landmine policy as a positive step forward toward the global humanitarian aim enshrined in the Ottawa Convention.