

Japan

DELEGATION OF JAPAN TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

3, chemin des Fins, P.O. Box 131, 1211 GENEVA 19, Switzerland
Tel. +41 (0) 22 717 34 44, Fax +41 (0) 22 788 38 18
Website: www.disarm.emb-japan.go.jp

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**16th Meeting of High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II (AP II) of the Convention on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW)
(12 November 2014, Geneva)
Statement by JAPAN**

Madame President,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on your assumption as the presidency of this Meeting of High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). We assure you of Japan's full cooperation in your work. Japan believes that the Amended Protocol II of the CCW continues to play an important role in reducing the humanitarian concerns by landmines, other weapons regulated by the CCW. We recognize that Amended Protocol II is a complementary legal framework to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Ottawa Convention), and we strongly support both instruments.

We are pleased to note that Japan, as State Party to Amended Protocol II and the Ottawa Convention, has been implementing its provisions and engaging in international cooperation for mine clearance and other activities. Since 1998, Japan has provided assistance of nearly 580 million US dollars for mine action to 50 countries and regions. These include clearance activities of landmines, cluster munitions and Unexploded Explosive Ordnance, risk education and victim assistance projects. Japan renews its commitment to continue its support for affected countries in need. We encourage other states in a position to do so to join in the global effort to eliminate the threat and socio-economic impact of landmines. As the Chair for the Mine Action Support Group (MASG), Japan is also determined to continue to play an active role in advancing mine action.

Japan welcomes Iraq as new State Party since the last annual Meeting, bringing the total number of States Parties to the Amended Protocol II to 101. In promoting the universalization of the Amended Protocol II, Japan continues to encourage States not party to the AP II to accede to it as early as possible.

Madame President,

Japan highly values the deliberation and substantive exchanges of views on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) during the Group of Experts meeting held in April this year. We would like to warmly appreciate the coordinators for their report on IEDs, which includes recommendations aiming at addressing the illicit use of materials which can be used for IEDs. We are fully aware of the indiscriminate harm to civilians caused by IEDs, and we believe that Amended Protocol II remains the most appropriate forum to promote discussion on how to address the issue of IEDs.

Madame President,

Given the significance of Amended Protocol II, it is important that all states parties should ensure the implementation of the Protocol's obligations and promote its universalization. For Japan's part, we will continue to make the utmost efforts to universalize the Convention as well as Amended Protocol II.

Thank you, Madame President.