

Statement delivered by Mr. Akifumi FUKUOKA Deputy Director, Conventional Arms Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tokyo Intersessional meeting Anti-Personal Mine Ban Convention Geneva, June 2025

"Strengthening the synergies between the WPS agenda and mine action" is one of the priority themes of the Presidency of Japan this year, and we commend the concrete initiatives being undertaken in Senegal and Sri Lanka in this regard.

Japan is also working to promote the participation of women in decision-making processes in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation as well as the incorporation of gender and diversity perspectives under its Third Action Plan for the WPS.

Specific initiatives in the field of mine action by Japan, together with our implementing partner the Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC), include capacity building support, encouraging women managers to participate in strategy formulation processes, and promoting women's participation in international conferences and training programs. These efforts aim to empower women to exercise leadership and to participate actively in the management of CMAC.

As an example, feedback from mine clearance sites demonstrate that mine detection and clearance sites are often located far from residential areas. We believe that improving the working environment for women (for instance, installing simple toilets that women can use safely and comfortably) is an issue that needs to be addressed when we discuss the work of the field.