

Statement by Nobushige TAKAMIZAWA  
Ambassador, Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament

At the Seventeenth Meeting of the State Parties  
to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer  
of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

(Agenda Item 7: General Exchange of views)

Madam President,

I recall at the end of the 16th MSP of the Convention in Vienna last December, outgoing and incoming Presidents affirmed what we need to do:

- Reaffirm our resolute commitment and redouble our efforts to a mine free world by 2025;
- Identify challenges and articulate priorities;
- Seek concerted and targeted efforts in a holistic manner;
- Ensure a strong partnership between states and civil society;
- Integrate immediate and long-term support; and
- Turn our ambition into action

This morning we heard similar views from distinguish guests and delegates.

Madam President,

As articulated by the President last year and echoed by many stakeholders, it is true that we are at a critical point in the convention history towards 2019, the year of the fourth Review Conference, as it marks the 20 years since the entry into force of the Ottawa Convention. (Since the adoption and an early entry into force of the Convention, remarkable achievements have been made, but) a lot of challenges remain, such as, victim assistance, mine clearance, stockpile destruction, universalization, compliance and international cooperation & assistance, including awareness-raising, risk education, sharing of experiences and expertise, as well as capacity building.

One of the concerns in recent years is the increasing number of landmine victims, particularly children, especially in the Middle East and Asia. In order to achieve the goal of "a world without antipersonnel

landmines by 2025," it is necessary for all stakeholder to implement measures fully.

As Japan announced at the 3rd Review Conference (3RC), Japan will continue to work with the three approaches of (1) continued support for relief activities of countries suffering from landmines and unexploded ordnances, (2) regional cooperation and promotion of South-South cooperation, (3) comprehensive support for victims of landmines and unexploded ordnances.

In efforts against landmines and unexploded ordnances, we have provided demining support to 51 countries in diverse regions. These include such activities as landmine removal, victim support, landmine avoidance education, etc., through international organizations, bilateral cooperation and support to landmine removal agencies (NGOs). The total amount is approximately 32.8 million US dollars in FY 2017, and the cumulative total since 1998 is about 757 million US dollars.

In order to realize "the world without landmines by 2025" stated in the "Maputo + 15" declaration adopted at 3RC, Japan recognizes that accelerating landmine removal and victim support are essential elements. Japan will continue to play an active role by utilizing our experience and technological capabilities in cooperation with the region, international organizations, and civil society

In recent years, the pace of universalization has slowed down. Since 14 of the 33 countries that have not yet acceded to the treaty are in the Asia-Pacific region, Japan will continue to utilize various activities, such as bilateral consultations, and will continue to encourage non – state parties while contributing towards universalization.

To conclude, I would like to emphasize the importance of the implementation of the Convention, which includes financial obligations, interaction among all stakeholders, and a proactive initiative to make a safer world. Japan would like to fulfill an active role in cooperation with the international community toward realizing the world without antipersonnel landmines in 2025.