



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

**Statement delivered by Mr. ISHIKAWA Wataru
Director, Conventional Arms Division,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tokyo
Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
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Item: 9. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention
(f) Universalizing the Convention

Madame President,

Japan welcomes the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Kingdom of Tonga as new States Parties to the APMBC.

In its capacity as the President of the 22nd Meeting of States Parties (22MSP), Japan has actively pursued 'universalization' as one of our priority themes, building upon the efforts of past presidencies. Japan, in cooperation with all stakeholders, including the Informal Universalization Coordination Group, will continue to make every effort towards the universalization of the Convention.

This year, we recognise that the decision of some States Parties to withdraw from the Convention is underpinned by serious concerns regarding the security environment in Europe, including Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Japan reiterates its resolute call for Russia to cease its aggression as soon as possible, to bring about an early end to the current situation.

Meanwhile, in attaching great importance to the APMBC and serving as the President of the 22MSP to the APMBC, Japan regrets that these countries found themselves in a situation where they had to decide to withdraw from this Convention. Japan hopes that these countries will continue to engage with the APMBC.

Regarding the communication from Ukraine on its decision to suspend its operation of the Convention, while recognising the grave situation caused by Russia's aggression, we recall that the APMBC does not contain provisions concerning the suspension of its operation. Furthermore, Japan takes serious note that several states have raised objections regarding the suspension of the operation of the Convention by invoking the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

Japan sincerely hopes that Ukraine will continue its engagement with the Convention.

Thank you, Madame President.