

Statement by Japan regarding International Cooperation and Assistance
Third Review Conference
June 24th, 2014, Maputo

Thank you Mr. President,

On behalf of the delegation of Japan please allow me to deliver a shortened statement on the item of international cooperation and assistance.

As a State Party to this Convention and from the perspective of ensuring human security and development, Japan has been actively providing international support to mine action. We are pleased to have been able to maintain a high level of international support exceeding 200 million US dollars over the past 5 years. Since 1998, in total, we contributed around 582 million dollars of support to mine action programs in 50 countries and regions. This is a reflection of our strong resolve to advance global mine action.

Beyond this Maputo Review Conference, we will continue our support to mine action by putting an emphasis on the following three approaches.

Firstly, we will continue to support those countries that are most heavily affected by anti-personnel mines and UXOs. Currently, there are around 30 countries yet to complete mine clearance obligations. Out of these, many are working on clearance by extending their original 10 years deadline. This is clearly a major challenge for this Convention, and especially to assist countries that have enormous areas of contamination, we view that it is necessary for the international community to offer effective support. For those countries that have extended their Article 5 deadlines; it is important to abide by their respective timeline. As in the past, Japan is willing to assist countries that face an immense challenge by the impact of landmines.

Secondly, Japan will promote regional cooperation and South-South cooperation. In recent years, we have witnessed more efforts on regional and south-south cooperation around the world, as it is expected to harvest positive impact through the sharing of experience and knowledge between countries that share a common goal. JICA has been carrying out triangular cooperation between Cambodia and other countries, namely Colombia, Lao PDR and Angola. As a result, we have been receiving encouraging reports of a noticeable surge in motivation amongst participants. On regional cooperation, for example, we recognize the role of the CPADD in Benin and we welcome ASEAN's initiative to tackle the problem in unity through the establishment of the ASEAN regional mine action center.

Thirdly, Japan aims to provide comprehensive support to victim assistance. In

Colombia, over a 5 year period from 2008 to 2012, a project to “Strengthen the Integral Rehabilitation System for persons with disabilities, especially victims of landmines” was carried out by JICA. Beginning this summer, as a successive program to the one just mentioned, we plan to carry out a new comprehensive victim assistance project in Colombia that focuses on the social inclusion and participation of victims of conflict, including mine victims.

Mr. President,

Before I conclude, please allow me to underscore that in order for donor countries to offer support to countries most in need of assistance, it is imperative that recipient countries prioritize mine action within their development agenda. As highlighted in the draft Maputo Action Plan, we call upon countries seeking assistance to demonstrate high-level national ownership and renew efforts to allocate their own financial resources sufficiently towards national mine action programs. Japan welcomes the contribution from emerging donors, and hope that the international community as a whole will continue their engagement in achieving further progress to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.

Finally, please allow me to make a brief comment on the statement by the distinguished delegation of the United States of America. Japan took note of the statement made by the United States with great interest and would like to express our sincere welcome and appreciation to the strenuous efforts by the government to pursue solutions that would ultimately allow the US to accede to the Convention. We applaud the significant amount of international contribution in which the US has made so far in mine action, and we will maintain our interest with regard to the outcome of the US landmine policy review.

I thank you for your kind attention.

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Co-Chairs, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Co-chairs for their tireless efforts to facilitate the discussion on this important theme of international cooperation and assistance.

As a State Party to this Convention and from the perspective of promoting humanitarian demining, development and ensuring human security, Japan has been actively providing international support to mine action. Since 1998, our international assistance reached to 582 million US Dollars, to support activities including mine clearance, victim assistance and mine risk education towards 50 countries and regions around the world. Since the Great Earthquake hit Japan in 2011, our government continues to adopt a policy of financial austerity; however, we are pleased to have been able to maintain a high level of international support to mine action exceeding 200 million US dollars over the past 5 years, reflecting our strong resolve to advance global mine action.

(At the Second Review Conference in Cartagena, as a future guide for our own international assistance, Japan announced the following approaches: First, strong partnership with affected countries as well as mine victims. Second, wide participation from members of society, including civil society, academia and the private sector. Third, a comprehensive approach that envelops mine action and the development of the impacted community.)

Beyond this Maputo Review Conference, based on the aforementioned three approaches and to further develop those, we will continue our support to mine action by putting an emphasis on the following three approaches.

Firstly, we will continue to support those countries that are most heavily affected by anti-personnel mines and UXOs. Currently, there are around 30 countries yet to complete mine clearance obligations. Out of these, many are working on clearance by extending their original 10 years deadline. This is clearly a major challenge for this Convention, and especially for those countries that have enormous areas of contamination, we view that it is necessary for the international community to offer encouragement. The draft Maputo Action Plan articulates the States Parties' strong aspiration towards completing implementation as soon as possible, or by 2025, and we

offer support to this reference in light of recognizing the imperative to speed up our collective efforts particularly in the area of clearance. We understand that the reference to 2025 is intended to encourage those States Parties that are most heavily affected by mines to complete their implementation in the nearest future, and for those countries that have extended their Article 5 deadlines prior to 2025; it is important to abide by their respective deadline. As in the past, Japan is willing to assist countries that face an immense challenge by the impact of landmines.

Secondly, Japan will promote regional cooperation and South-South cooperation. In recent years, we have witnessed more examples of regional and south-south cooperation around the world, as it is expected to harvest positive impact through the sharing of experience and knowledge between countries that share a common goal. The Japan International Cooperation Agency has been carrying out triangular cooperation with Cambodia Mine Action Center and other national mine action operators in recent years. As a result, we have been receiving encouraging reports of a noticeable surge in motivation amongst the participants. On regional cooperation, for example, we recognize the role of the CPADD in Benin which trains mine clearance personnel in Africa. In recognition of the establishment of the new ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center in Cambodia, we welcome ASEAN's initiative to tackle the problem of landmines in unity, bringing together their accumulated experience and knowledge over the decades. Additionally we welcome the reference to the promotion of regional and south-south cooperation in paragraph 23 of the draft Maputo Action Plan. Our delegation will be introducing Japan's efforts on regional and south-south cooperation more in detail at side-events during lunch-time on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th together with our partners.

Thirdly, Japan aims to provide comprehensive support to victim assistance. At the Second Review Conference, States Parties committed to provide for the full participation and social inclusion of victims, ensure access to services and information, coordination between relevant sectors, and non-discrimination from other peoples with disabilities. Victim assistance requires the provision of care during a wide range of phases from the immediate first aid after getting injured, the eventual rehabilitation, and to the final stages of participation in society. While victims of landmines and UXOs need to be appropriately targeted, it is important to develop and implement holistic welfare for all peoples with disabilities. In Colombia, over a 5 year period from 2008 to 2012, a project to "Strengthen the Integral Rehabilitation System for persons with disabilities, especially victims of landmines" was carried out by JICA. This project was done in collaboration with the National Rehabilitation Center of Japan; senior experts from the Center were dispatched from Japan as well as essential equipment, and in return the National Center received trainees from Colombia. Beginning this summer, as a successive program to the one just mentioned, we plan to carry out a new victim assistance project in Colombia that focuses on the social inclusion and participation of victims of conflict, including mine victims.

Mr. President,

Before I conclude, please allow me to underscore that in order for States Parties to offer support to countries most in need of assistance, it is imperative that the recipient country prioritizes mine action within their development agenda. As highlighted in paragraph 19 of the draft Maputo Action Plan, recipient countries also need to demonstrate high-level national ownership and renew efforts to allocate their own financial resources sufficiently towards their mine action programs. Japan also welcomes the additional contribution from emerging donors, and hope that the international community as a whole will continue their engagement in achieving further progress to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.

I thank you for your kind attention.