

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Intersessional meetings

(8 -9 June 2017, Geneva)

Statement on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance by JAPAN

Thank you, Mr. President,

Since this is the first time to take the floor, we would like to congratulate Ambassador Thomas Hajnoczi for the organization of this Intersessional Meeting, and let me assure you Japan's full support and cooperation during this meeting. Also let me express our gratitude to the Committees for their tireless efforts to facilitate the discussion on this important theme of Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance.

Mr. President,

This year marks the 20th anniversary since the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention was established in 1997. Since Japan signed this Convention, Japan has been seriously working on its steady implementation. Among the obligations to the States Parties, from the perspective of humanitarianism, development, and human security, Japan has put importance on international support to mine action. During the FY 2016, Japan provided more than 40 million U.S. dollars for mine action projects in 22 impacted countries and regions, as well as to international organizations, in order to carry out the various projects in the field of clearance of landmines and ERWs, victim assistance, risk reduction education and so on. Mine clearance is particularly regarded as one of the important challenges in the "Development Cooperation Charter" of Japan, which is the basis of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) policy. Since 1998, we contributed around 710 million U.S. dollars in total to mine action programs in 51 countries and regions.

Mr. President,

Due to the efforts of the States Parties and relevant organizations, we have made great achievement in various fields. However, we have a lot of works still remaining to be done. According to the “Landmine Monitor 2016”, the total number of mine casualties in 2015 marked the second highest number over the past 10 years. Many contaminated areas are yet to be cleared. The pace of universalization has slowed, and countries with large stockpiles and/or producing anti-personnel mines still remain outside of this legal framework.

Mr. President,

“The Last Stretch” to realize the mine-free world by 2025 may be very difficult compared to the past 20 years. However, aiming to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by landmines, Japan will redouble its effort and continue to cooperate with the international community.

Thank you, Mr. President.