

Statement by Ambassador Ichiro Ogasawara
Permanent Representative, Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel
Mines and on Their Destruction
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Madam Chair,

Since this is the first time that Japan is taking the floor in its national capacity, I would like to thank the President for his efforts to convene this important meeting and Madam Chair for organizing this session. I assure you of our full support to the Presidency and our commitment to the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

The Government of Japan condemns the heinous attack on the HALO Trust's camp in Afghanistan on June 8. Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families and we hope for full recoveries of all those who were injured. All mine action workers carrying out humanitarian activities must be protected and all violence against them must be stopped. The Government of Japan will continue to promote efforts to combat landmines in Afghanistan and other parts of the world.

Madam Chair,

Japan implements cooperation and assistance on mine-action, based on the following three pillars. Firstly, continued support for clearance activities in countries which have been seriously damaged by landmines and unexploded ordnance. Secondly, promotion of regional and south-south cooperation. And thirdly, comprehensive support for victims of landmines and unexploded ordnance.

Japan agrees that effective mine-action also contributes to the realization of the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and the commitment of ensuring there is "no one left behind." In addition, advancing mine-action efforts will also lead to the realization of human security.

In the fiscal year 2020, Japan contributed a total of approximately US \$ 39 million across 21 countries in collaboration with related international organizations such as the United Nations Department of Mine Action Services (UNMAS) and other related NGOs. During the five years period till 2020, Japan implemented various mine-action projects amounting to US \$ 199 million.

Allow me to refer to one of the most recent examples we have conducted. In March of this year, Japan

contributed approximately \$ 4.7 million to mine action projects across six countries through UNMAS. For example, in Palestine, Japan supports programs aiming to reduce the risk arising from Explosive Remnants of War and to enhance conflict resilience in Gaza. These projects reaffirm the importance of mine actions that are crucial to promptly respond to the risk of explosives in emergency situation and provide a foothold for subsequent reconstruction and development.

To conclude, I would like to welcome the emphasis the Dutch Presidency placed on « innovation » as one of the key concepts in President's initial remarks. In this regard, Japan attaches great importance to the application of advanced science and technology to mine action. Therefore, we welcome research projects jointly conducted by Waseda University in Japan, multiple Japanese companies, and the ICRC on the utilization of AI and deep machine learning in the field of landmine detection.

Japan will continue to play an active role in mine action in cooperation with the United Nations, UN Member States and civil society organizations.

I thank you, Madam Chair.