

## **Japan's Statement on "Cooperation and Assistance in Clearing Mined Areas"**

**26 April 2007**

Since the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the States Parties, Japan has decided to assist mine clearance efforts in 6 States Parties of the Ottawa Convention, which amounts to approximately 21 million US dollars.

As examples of Japan's mine clearance assistance, the Government of Japan provided approximately 4.2 million US dollars in support to the National Institute for Demining, INAD, for enhancing the capacity of their management system, improving the curriculum of their training courses for deminers and developing the capacity of demining teams.

In support of States Parties fulfilling their Article 5 obligations, in December 2006, the Government of Japan provided 3 million US dollars in support for emergency mine/UXO surveys, clearance and verification in South Western Sudan through the United Mine Action Service. This project is expected to contribute to the consolidation of peace, in addition to the Sudanese government's effort to fulfill their Article 5 obligation.

We would also like to share with the Standing Committee our efforts on Research and Development to support State Parties in the fulfillment of Article 5 obligations. Japan has been actively engaged in the development of demining related equipment to improve the safety and efficiency of demining activities. For instance, from April 2006 to March this year, Japan conducted verification tests on demining machines and mine detectors in the Kingdom of Cambodia. Upon receiving the results from the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, the implementing agency for this project, we will make further improvements to this equipment and seek its introduction to Cambodia's mine action program. Eventually, we hope that the introduction of this equipment will support the efforts of the Cambodian government in fulfilling its article 5 obligations.

Japan is also joining the ITEP evaluation programme to test a mine detector

together with the equipment of the United States and a number of European countries. The results of the tests will contribute to the accumulation of scientific and objective data, which will ultimately be used for setting criteria and standards for mine detectors. This data is expected to be available as widely as possible, for the benefit of national mine action programs.

Thank you very much.