

**Statement of the Government of JAPAN**  
**at the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration,**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2004, Geneva**

**Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen**

**1. Empowerment of Victims**

**The Gov. of Japan attaches importance to Victim Assistance. This year, Japan funded a project for Landmine Victims Assistance and Mine Risk Education in Yemen (approximately 437,000USD). Last year the Gov. of Japan also assisted Victim Assistance project; Japan funded approximately 55,000USD through Japanese NOG to support a project which was aimed to provide medical treatment to landmine survivors in Cambodia.**

**In this context, my delegation would like to draw your attention to the view of “empowerment of victims” through which Socio-Economic reintegration will be promoted. As my delegation stated yesterday, “Human Security” is one of the important pillars of our foreign policies, and “empowerment of people” as well as “protection of people” are pivotal concepts underlying it.**

**Therefore, my delegation would like to appreciate initiatives taken by ICBL and its member organizations in which landmine survivors are involved in advocacy, Mine Risk Education, and/or assisting other victims, including peer counseling.**

**Providing prosthesis and other artificial limbs is, without doubt, essential part of victim assistance, but NOT a final goal of Victim Assistance. When we discuss about Victim Assistance, we should not forget a very important viewpoint: how can we empower each individual victim? My delegation would like to emphasize on importance of this question.**

**Needless to say, in order to empower victims, long term approach is indispensable. It should be recalled that adult amputees need prostheses replaced every three to five years and children need them replaced every 6-12 months according to the analysis of the ICRC.**

**2. Holistic approach**

**While my delegation emphasizes on importance of viewpoint of “empowerment of victims”, my delegation would like also to emphasize on importance of holistic approach in victim assistance.**

**In many mine affected countries, most of landmine victims lives in poverty and have little access to hospital and other social services. This is threatening human**

**security of those people. Therefore, holistic approach, or in other words, “empowerment of community as a whole” is vital in Victim Assistance and this will definitely help and accelerate achieving sustainable development of this society.**

**In this context, my delegation would like to introduce one of our latest and unique assistance so as to empower community eventually relating to mine action; The Gov. of Japan funded 49,000USD to the Project for Rehabilitating Demined Areas through Planting Trees in Lebanon. Of course, this does not diminish the importance of mine clearance and assistance of victims in direct manner and the Gov. of Japan is very pleased to renew its commitment to assistance of these kinds of mine actions. What my delegation wants to say here is that the Gov. of Japan considers this kind of effort(the Project for Rehabilitating Demined Areas through Planting Trees) is also important in mine action, especially if we have longer and wider view on mine action, in particular view on relationship between mine action and sustainable development.**

**Thank you very much for your attention.**

**(end)**