The Meeting of the Standing Committees of the Convention on the
Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of
Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

**Talking points of the Delegation of Japan**

Geneva, 2-6 June 2008

**Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the
Convention (2 June Afternoon; 6 June Morning & Afternoon)**

2. **General status of universalization**

Up to the present date, Japan has been working actively to universalize the
Ottawa Convention in the Asia Pacific region. In addition, not only have we
been making efforts towards States within the Asia Pacific, but we have also
been seizing every appropriate opportunity within bilateral talks to encourage
other States not party to the Convention to join.

Last year, Japan held bilateral discussions with the 17 Asia-Pacific States not
party to the Convention, including Palau, which acceded in November, and with
the Republic of Georgia to promote their accession. Furthermore, during these
efforts, Japan directly enquired about the difficulties each State was facing in the
ratification of the Convention.

5. **Article 3: Updates on plans for and use of mines retained for the
development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine
destruction techniques**

- Since the Dead Sea Progress Report, Japan has provided information
  within its Article 7 reports on the amount, model and other required
details regarding its mines retained for reasons permitted under Article 3,
  which we submitted before 30 April this year.

- In accordance with the exceptions in Article 3, Japan has used
  anti-personnel mines for the purposes of training in mine detection, mine
clearance, and mine destruction techniques, as well as for developing mine
detection and mine clearance equipment. Within its annual Article 7
reports, Japan has supplied information on the use of its retained mines
and the results of such use. Specifically, we have provided data on: (1)
mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques developed
and under development; (2) training in mine detection, mine clearance or
mine destruction; and (3) the number of personnel trained. In 2008,
Japan plans to use anti-personnel landmines retained under Article 3 for
the purpose of training infantry and engineering units of the Self Defense
Force in mine detection and mine clearance.

*Japan’s situation concerning mines retained in accordance with Article 3*

*In accordance with Article 3 of the Convention, Japan retains
anti-personnel mines for the purpose of training in and development of
mine detection, mine clearance and mine destruction techniques (At the
time of entry into force in 1999: 15,000 retained. As of December 2007:
3,712 retained). However, the number possessed is the minimum
absolutely necessary for training the Self Defense Force units and
technology development trails.*