

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF JAPAN
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE GENERAL STATUS AND OPERATION OF
THE CONVENTION
Geneva, 31 May 2002

Preparation for the 2004 Review Conference

Introduction:

Article 12 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction provides that a Review Conference shall be convened by the UN Secretary-General five years after the entry into force of the Convention. The Convention also provides that the purpose of the Review Conference shall be to review the operation and status of the Convention; to consider the need for and the interval between further Meetings of the States Parties; and so on. Thus, the 2004 Review Conference is a milestone opportunity for the States Parties to have an overview of the first five years' operation of the Convention. It is of special importance, compared to the annual Meetings of the States Parties, and its successful convening is of strong interest to all States Parties. The preparation for this Conference therefore requires greater attention and care.

Substance:

My country believes that the Review Conference should focus on priority areas in the operation of the Convention. Such priority areas should be identified from the viewpoint of advancing towards the global objective of putting "an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines," as stipulated in the first preambular paragraph of the Convention. In this regard, the non-paper on the intersessional work programme of the Convention is very good food for thought. My country mostly shares the view adopted in this paper which enumerates four areas of focus for the intersessional programme. This matter related to what substantive issues should be focused at the Review Conference requires further consideration.

Organization of preparation:

In working towards the 2004 Review Conference States Parties also need to discuss and decide on how to organize the preparation for the Conference. My country believes that the States Parties need to have a process to make official decisions in relation to the preparation for the Review Conference because the intersessional programme was not created for such a purpose. Through this process the States Parties can make decisions on the preparation for the Conference, including the recommendation to the Conference, based on the substantive inputs from the intersessional programme. This process should be constructed so as to keep the States Parties well-informed, to give enough time for them to study and consider all information, ideas and proposals and to enable them to reach effective recommendation for a consensus decision to be adopted at the Review Conference.

My country is not necessarily of the view that additional labor and financial resources should be expended on preparation. The States Parties may be able to establish the

most efficient structure by making the best use of more or less the same amount of resources as is used for the current Ottawa process. This organizational issue should be further discussed, and a decision on the preparatory process for the Review Conference should be taken at the Meeting of the States Parties next year.