

**16th Meeting of States Parties to APMBC
(18 - 21 December 2017, Vienna, Austria)
Statement on Victim Assistance by JAPAN**

Thank you, Mr. President,

First, I would like to thank the members of the Committee on Victim Assistance for their excellent coordinating work on this important issue.

Mr. President,

Japan believes that international cooperation and assistance continues to play an important role in promoting victim assistance. As I mentioned yesterday, at the Third Review Conference, Japan announced three approaches to mine action, in which we aim to provide comprehensive support to victim assistance. In this regard, Japan has made strenuous efforts in many countries, and I understand Handicap International will host a side-event this afternoon “Successful case on social and economic inclusion of Survivors in Colombia.” In that sense, I’d like to focus on Colombia. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) carried out a project from 2008 to 2012, focusing on enhancing the professional capability of

senior experts engaged in rehabilitation. Based on this project, which proved to be a success by creating of sense of ownership among others, actually 8 relevant organizations, in which we are carrying out a new victim assistance project in Colombia from 2015 to 2020, focusing on the social inclusion and participation of victims of conflict, including mine victims. It is but a small piece of the puzzle, but I understand the key to success is willingness to share information, record of discussions, and to closely work together holding face to face meetings on a regular basis.

Mr. President,

In order for the concerned States Parties to implement the Convention's obligations with regard to victim assistance, it is imperative to steadily put into practice the relevant actions of the Maputo Action Plan. States Parties would be required to take necessary steps at home, which could include enhancing inter-agency cooperation in the government, as well as enacting relevant laws and budget allocations for their implementation. Moreover, in order for States Parties to offer tailored support to countries in need of international cooperation and assistance, it is indispensable that the recipient country prioritizes mine action within their development agenda, and demonstrates ownership and renews efforts to allocate

their own financial resources specifically towards their mine action programmes.

Mr. President,

As I referred to on Monday, according to the 2017 Landmine Monitor report, the total number of mine casualties in 2016 was 8,605, which marked the second highest of all years in Landmine Monitor data, except for 1999. Japan remains gravely concerned about this data and we need to renew our sense of urgency to redouble our efforts towards a mine free world.

Mr. President,

We recognize that victim assistance are essential elements to realize a world without mines by 2025, which is mentioned in the MAPUTO + 15 Political Declaration. Japan will continue to play an active role in order to put an end to the suffering caused by landmines, while noting the significance of sustainable support beyond 2025.

Thank you, Mr. President.