

16th Meeting of States Parties to APMBC

(18 - 21 December 2017, Vienna, Austria)

Statement on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance by

JAPAN

Thank you, Mr. President,

First, I would like to thank the Netherlands, Uganda, Canada, and Algeria for their hard work to facilitate the discussion on this important issue of international cooperation and assistance, focusing on the Individualised Approach, Platform for Partnerships and Mapping Needs and Challenges.

Mr. President,

As a State Party to this Convention and from the perspective of ensuring human security and development, Japan has been providing international support to mine action since signing this Convention. In fiscal year 2016, Japan allocated more than 40 million USD for 37 projects in various countries and regions, including Sudan and South Sudan, carrying out the clearance of landmines and ERWs, victim assistance, risk reduction education and so on. Since 1998, in total, we contributed around 710 million USD to mine action programs in 51

countries and regions. Japan's international support to mine action are categorized as bilateral cooperation and as cooperation through international organizations. As for bilateral cooperation, Japan supports Cambodia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Republic of Congo, Lebanon and so on in the area of the clearance of landmines and ERWs, victim assistance, and risk reduction education. As for cooperation through international organizations, Japan supports Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Mali, Republic of Congo, and Palestine through UNMAS, and Ukraine, Yemen and Chad through UNICEF.

Mr. President,

Given the large scale area that remains to be cleared from contamination, "The Last Stretch," to realize a mine-free world by 2025 is not an easy target, however, it should be achievable by accelerating and fully integrating various efforts and raising awareness as well as the sense of urgency at the highest political level. Japan will cooperate with impacted countries and international organizations to identify specific and diversified needs and challenges, and continue to extend international cooperation and assistance to the affected countries.

Thank you, Mr. President.