
Intervention by Japan (Amb. Inoguchi) in the informal consultations session on Norway's non-paper and Victim Assistance, morning of September 19, 2002.

Thank you Mr. Co-chair.

Japan would like to join others in supporting the non-paper submitted by Norway, and would like to help in keeping the momentum to help mine affected countries.

Japan puts great emphasis on the concept of "human security", which was also pointed out earlier by Austria, and focuses on the capacity building of each individual. In mine action, we have worked hard to introduce what we call an "integrated approach", whereby we try to combine mine clearance, mine awareness education, victim assistance, physical rehabilitation, and socio-economic integration of mine survivors in a comprehensive and integrated program. One example is the "Greater Azra Initiative", which started as a program to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of refugees, but, in fact, mine action proved to be the essential element of the Initiative. Azra is the region south of Kandahar. Japan will make utmost efforts to help enable mine survivors to begin afresh an ordinary life.

Japan also put emphasis on ownership by mine affected countries, and partnership among mine-affected countries, donors, international aid agencies and NGOs.
Thank you.

Second intervention by Japan (Amb. Inoguchi) in the informal consultations session on Norway's non-paper and Victim Assistance, morning of September 19, 2002.

Thank you Mr. Co-chair,

Earlier today, I discussed the importance of the integrated approach and integrated programme to overcome mine problems. At this point I would like to point out that, as we try to bring better, new life to mine survivors, we must not overlook the importance of providing assistance to improve the overall socio-economic condition of the affected country in general, including medical care capacities, geographical accessibility, educational opportunities and employment conditions. Those in the position to do so ought to redouble their efforts toward the reduction of poverty and deprivation of human security. As we do so, we ought to highlight the importance of assistance to mine survivors, but at the same time we might ask the courageous mine survivors to provide leadership and raise their voices to bring a better new life for all deprived citizens.

Thank you.