

JAPAN

Statement by the Government of Japan on "Cooperation and Assistance"

7th Meeting of the State Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction

21 September, 2006

As we stated at the Nairobi Summit on a Mine Free World in December 2004, Japan will support mine action according to the following 3 principles over the next few years:

- (a) consolidation of peace,
- (b) human security, and
- (c) cooperation among governments, NGOs, the private sector, and academia.

As actual accomplishment since the 6th Meeting of the State Parties last year, during the first half of this year Japan provided around 12 million dollars for assistance to 19 projects, consisting of 10 projects for mine clearance, 2 projects for victim assistance, 2 projects for mine risk education, 1 joint project for victim assistance and mine risk education, 1 project for the whole field of mine action, and 3 projects for other matters.

As a first example of Japan's recent assistance for mine action, since last August field tests of demining devices and mine detectors produced by Japan have been conducted in Cambodia in order to make these devices adaptable to the natural environment, the types of mines, the situations of their emplacement, and the circumstances of operations. The final goal is to enable anyone to conduct more efficient operations with these devices which have been developed in performance by utilizing the results of their testing.

As a second example, Japan has assisted Nicaragua to obtain demining devices by utilizing the reserves of other contributions 3 times and recently decided to extend 900,000 dollars for further assistance to pay for the

maintenance and operation of these devices as well last May. These series of assistance succeed in clearing around 12,000 landmines over an area of 400,000 square meters as well as disposing of around 1,200 unexploded ordinances. In addition, Japan has extended assistance for mine clearance, mine risk education, victim assistance, and so forth through various channels including the UNMAS and the OAS.

Before concluding this statement, please allow me to emphasize again that Japan will continue to play an active role in mine action and is prepared to make contributions, within our capacity, to all efforts and initiatives taken for this purpose.