

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Masakazu HAMACHI, Parliamentary  
Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan  
At the First International Pledging Conference for the  
Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention  
2 March 2016, Geneva, Switzerland**

His Excellency Mr. Heraldo Munoz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of  
Chile,  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to give my appreciation to Chile,  
Presidency of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel  
Mine Ban Convention, for their initiative in organizing this important  
event.

In order to address various problems posed by anti-personnel mines  
and with a view to ensuring human security; Japan, as a state-party,  
has made strenuous efforts to strengthen mine action that promotes  
activities such as those for mine clearance and victim assistance. I am  
pleased to announce that since 1998, Japan has donated approximately  
622 million US Dollars to mine action in 50 countries and regions.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan highly values an important role that the Convention has played  
in addressing the issues caused by anti-personnel mines. Since the  
entry-into-force of the convention in 1999, States Parties to the  
convention have implemented their treaty obligations, thereby steadily  
destroying their stockpiled mines and clearing their mined areas.

However, there remains much to be done toward a mine-free world.  
The international community once again has to underscore the need to  
intensify overall efforts to that end, in particular, through the full  
implementation of the convention.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan attaches great importance to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), and is of the view that its effective operation is instrumental in promoting adherence to the convention by States Parties.

With this in mind, Japan would like to express an intention to contribute approximately 79,700 Swiss Francs to the ISU out of the budget for fiscal 2016, subject to the domestic approval process at the Parliament.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to urge as many States Parties as possible to join this endeavor to pledge financial resources to the ISU.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(end)