

2015 APMBC 14th Meeting of States Parties (14 MSP)
(30 November - 4 December 2015, Geneva)
Statement by JAPAN

**Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the
Committee on Victim Assistance**

Thank you, Mr. President,

At the outset, we would like to express our appreciation to the committee for its tireless efforts to facilitate the discussion on this important theme of victim assistance.

In order for States Parties concerned to implement the convention's obligations with regard to victim assistance, it is necessary to steadily put the relevant actions of the Maputo Action Plan into practice. The States Parties concerned would be required to take necessary steps at home, which could include enhancing trans-departmental cooperation in the government, and enactment of relevant laws and budget allocations for their implementation. With various challenges to be addressed, we are of the view that the States Parties concerned should take into account good practices and lessons learned from the steps taken for victim assistance, which are shared at meetings of States Parties. We hope that those states will extend assistance to mine victims in a most efficient and effective manner.

Mr. President,

Japan believes that international cooperation and assistance continues to play an important role in promoting victim assistance. At the Third Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in 2014, Japan announced its approaches to mine action, in which we aim to provide comprehensive support to victim assistance. Japan has made strenuous efforts in this regard. For example, in Colombia, over a 5 year period from

2008 to 2012, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) carried out a project to “Strengthen the Integral Rehabilitation System for Persons with Disabilities, especially Victims of Landmines.” This project was done in collaboration with the National Rehabilitation Center of Japan. Senior experts from the center were dispatched from Japan, as well as essential equipment, and in return the National Center received trainees from Colombia. From March this year to March 2020, as a successive program to the one just mentioned, we are carrying out a new victim assistance project in Colombia that focuses on the social inclusion and participation of victims of conflict, including mine victims.

Japan would like to urge states in a position to do so to extend international cooperation for victim assistance.

Mr. President,

Last but not least, please allow me to underscore that in order for States Parties to offer support to countries in need of international cooperation and assistance, it is imperative that the recipient country prioritizes mine action within their development agenda, and demonstrates ownership and renews efforts to allocate their own financial resources sufficiently towards their mine action programmes.

I thank you.