

Statement by Nobushige TAKAMIZAWA
Ambassador of Japan
to the Conference on Disarmament

At the Seventeenth 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

(Agenda Item 10: Financial status of assessed contributions to the MSP)

Madam President,

Strengthening financial predictability and sustainability are the core issues directly related to holding various conferences and consequently implementing the Convention. Japan takes this issue seriously and is willing to articulate our concerns and work hard on tackling the issue with all stakeholders with a sense of urgency and priority.

Now, I would like to say a few points in this context.

In order to enhance financial predictability and sustainability, we need to examine the issue from two different aspects; identification and notification of amount of budget necessary for the following year with good reasons and how to ensure payment from those who have obligations to pay.

I understand that the budgeting process in the Contracting Parties differ from country to country, but it would be very difficult, if not impossible, for each state to ensure a necessary budget without knowing the overall cost estimate for the following year at an early stage of the budgeting cycle, particularly when it might increase dramatically. Furthermore, it is essential that individual contribution rates and contributions be presented well in advance to prepare for the budget. A possible option would be to indicate an estimate of the budget for two years, as done in the CCW, for example.

In addition, it is also important to present carryforwards early. I believe it

would not be limited to countries like Japan, and information on carryover has a big impact on our budget integration process of the following fiscal year. In this sense, precise budget estimation to prevent shortage of budget and to secure sufficient budget is a major premise or prerequisite for an early and sufficient payment.

Madam President,

Securing transparency is another important issue. We would like to ask the secretariat to fulfill adequate accountability. At this meeting, the cost estimate of 4th Review Conference was released only after the conference started.

Regarding the cost estimate of the 4th Review Conference, it can hardly be said that sufficient preparation time to implement coordination with the Finance Authority was given. We would like to ask to explain why the cost estimate was delayed.

Also, it cannot be said that sufficient explanation has been made about the details of the amount. Only after each High Contracting Party is familiar with and satisfied with the content of the budget, will it lead to improvement of willingness to pay.

As I mentioned earlier, due to this delay and the lack of the consideration of time given before the commencement of the MSP, we were forced to miss the deadline for making our revised budget request for FY2019. So we are not able make this, as a result, in order to pay the contributions appropriately, extraordinary measures would be required. And we need to have a very detailed explanation why it is happening and why it will not be happen again after next year. That is a very important point I would like to make.

Finally Madam President,

Japan would like to reiterate, payment of contributions is a duty of the High Contracting Party as provided for in Article 14 of the Convention, and

Japan will continue to fulfill this obligation firmly.

Thank you, Madam President.