



**Statement delivered by the Delegation of Japan
20th meeting of States Parties
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Agenda item: Finance
25 November 2022, Geneva**

Mr. President,

Japan is the largest contributor to the Convention among the meeting of States Parties, and we are seriously concerned about the existence of countries that have not paid their assessed contributions to the Convention. This has resulted in the suspension of settlement of accounts by the UN, which we consider a financial problem that could seriously impede the smooth implementation of the Convention. In order to ensure the strong operation of the Convention, it is urgent to establish strong financial stability. Japan will continue to make efforts to resolve this issue in cooperation with the States Parties concerned.

We continue to request that administrative procedures be improved, such as providing budget materials with sufficient time for review, so that appropriate review can be conducted by our Capital. In addition, it is important that the invoices sent to each country include not only the amount of each country's share but also the percentage of each country's share from the viewpoint of improving transparency. Information on the various materials and invoices, including the percentage of each country's share, is important for the budgeting process in the capital cities, and we request that this information be implemented as soon as possible.

In addition, Japan has paid its full assessed contribution for this year without deducting surpluses from the past, which was unilaterally introduced by the United Nations. We do not give any assent to the measure of not settling past accounts and not deducting surpluses from the new assessed

contributions. We would like to reiterate that we believe that surpluses incurred in the past should be deducted from the amount of contributions as appropriate.

We recognize the draft decision to resolve the financial problem as a constructive proposal. It calls for the UN to settle the long overdue accounts, and states that have paid their assessed contribution, including Japan, will be invoiced for the next fiscal year's dues after deducting the surplus amount generated in the previous fiscal year. On the other hand, if the surplus is not sufficient, it is proposed that the surplus be returned every five years, depending on the amount of arrears subsequently paid. The realization of the return of surpluses is solely contingent on the payment of arrears, so we reiterate the importance of the timely payment by each states parties of their assessed contributions. States parties in arrears should pay immediately. Although the proposed draft financial proposal does not include a penalty clause for States Parties in arrears of assessed contributions, we strongly urge States Parties to pay their assessed contributions and properly fulfill their obligations.