

## 2. Preliminary Observations of the Convention's Committees

### Cooperation and Assistance

Thank you, Mr. President, it's a pleasure to join you in welcoming participants to the first in-person meeting since the Fourth Review Conference.

Japan Chairs the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance and works together with representatives from the Netherlands, Sudan and Thailand.

Like other Committees, our preliminary observations are online for your review. We are extremely grateful for the information submitted by all States on the commitment of resources toward their implementation efforts, their efforts to strengthen dialogues with stakeholders and to stimulate regional, international and south-south cooperation, as well as on how gender and diversity are considered in the implementation of your cooperation and assistance programme.

As you can appreciate from our preliminary observations:

One of the main activities of the Committee has been supporting States in taking advantage of the **Individualised Approach**. For those not familiar with the Individualized Approach, put simply, it is a platform for States Parties seeking support for their Convention implementation efforts to meet with States Parties and organizations in a position to provide this support. We encourage States to approach the Committee or the ISU for further information on participation in the Individualized Approach.

This week we have worked with Cambodia, Chad and Guinea-Bissau to hold Individualised Approach meetings. We encourage all of those invited to these meetings to please join us. They are an important opportunity to engage with these States, learn more about their challenge, and establish the connection to continue the dialogue. These events will take place in Room b this week.

The Individualized approach can only serve as a steppingstone. It must be matched with additional national and international efforts, such as the establishment of **National Mine Action Platforms** for regular discussions with stakeholders, which we also highlight in our observations. The call for greater dialogue between stakeholders is a commitment to both the 2014 Maputo and the 2019 Oslo Action Plans. Our aim is to continue to promote these National Mine Action Platforms. Some of you have reported on efforts to establish regular dialogue, and we want to hear more from you during our session on Cooperation and Assistance, which is scheduled to begin tomorrow afternoon. And we would like to see these national

mine action platforms for dialogue become more robust, and frequent and to strengthen partnerships towards completion.

We are truly convinced that a mine action programme that ensures an ongoing transparent and honest dialogue with all stakeholders stands a better chance of progressing more efficiently in implementation and ensuring that resources flow to support implementation efforts. We also view this as an essential part of national ownerships, which the States Parties have viewed as the cornerstone for cooperation and assistance.

While national ownership is the cornerstone for cooperation and assistance, we also believe that there is room for greater donor coordination and closer partnerships with affected States to see that they can overcome barriers to completion. This is, of course, a unique part of our Convention. We look forward to hearing more from States in a position to provide assistance on their coordination efforts.

Our observations also highlight the importance of transparency. This year we launched a voluntary online reporting tool for the use of States Parties. We hope that States Parties begin to use this tool which facilitates compliance and ensures that your reports contain critical information we committed to providing in line with Article 7, the Guide to Reporting and the commitments of the Oslo Action Plan. We look forward to further raising awareness of this tool in the lead to your 2023 reporting deadline. The Committee and ISU are ready to support your efforts to further familiarize delegation with using of this tool.

Once again, we thank States for the information submitted, and we look forward to hearing from you on these matters during our thematic session tomorrow in order to complement our observations.

This week we will also participate in the panel discussions from a cooperation and assistance perspective in terms of fulfilling Article 5 and victim assistance commitments. We look forward and count on your engagement.

We also look forward to carrying out our work in cooperation with you on the road to the 20MSP.

Thank you.