



**Statement delivered by Japan
Anti-Personal Mine Ban Convention**

Intersessional meeting

Geneva, 22 June 2022

Thank you for giving me the floor,

Regarding mine action assistance, Japan has three priority areas. First, sustained assistance to clearance activities in countries with serious landmine and UXO (unexploded ordnance) damage; second, promotion of regional and South-South cooperation, and third, comprehensive victim assistance for victims of landmines and unexploded ordnance. The fact that Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) made a presentation on South-South cooperation together with Cambodia CMAC at the thematic discussion yesterday clearly shows the support policy of our country. Japan is convinced that effective mine action contributes to the realization of “the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and to the commitment of “no one will be left behind”. In addition, advancing mine action will contribute to the realization of human security. A high priority should be given to mine action with the perspective of human security, which Japan has long advocated for.

In 2021, in cooperation with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) as well as with other relevant international organizations, and NGOs, Japan provided assistance totaling more than US\$41 million across 18 countries and regions. As an example of our most recent support, in March of this year, Japan, through UNMAS, contributed a total of more than \$2.2 million to mine action projects in three countries. In the Gaza Strip, Palestine, Japan is supporting post-conflict unexploded ordinance disposal and mine risk education to reduce the risk of ERW (explosive remnants of war) and landmine contamination. In northern Ethiopia, we funded the project that is supporting mine risk education for internally displaced persons and returnees to post-conflict areas. In Afghanistan, Japan plans to provide assistance in the clearance of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and landmines, as well as mine risk education. Japan attaches particular importance to the implementation of humanitarian mine action, especially because it will serve as a stepping stone to subsequent reconstruction and development.

Japan also emphasizes the application of advanced science and technology to mine action. In this regard, we welcome the joint research project being conducted by Waseda University, several Japanese companies, and the ICRC on the use of AI and deep learning in the field of mine detection. If States Parties and NGOs are interested in this summary, you will find it in ICRC internet site.

Japan remains committed to playing an active role in mine action in cooperation with particular states, the United Nations, UN member states, and civil society organizations for a better implementation of the Convention.