

Inaugural speech by H.E. Ms. Tomiko ICHIKAWA
Ambassador-designate of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
At the Twenty-First Meeting of States Parties (21MSP)
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
24 November 2023, Geneva (Video Message)

Mr President, Esteemed delegates,

First of all, I would like to thank you all for your support in my appointment to President of the Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties in 2025. It is a great honor for Japan to serve this Convention as President, and I will do my utmost effort for the success of 22nd MSP.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Ambassador Thomas Göbel for his eminent leadership and efforts throughout this year. I would also like to appreciate the outstanding work done by the ISU team in supporting states and the members of the four Committees in advancing the effective implementation of the Convention.

Let me congratulate H.E. Mr. LY Thuch, Senior Minister and First Vice President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) on your assumption of the Presidency of the Fifth Review Conference. I assure you of the full cooperation and support of my delegation for the success of the Conference.

Japan has been a staunch supporter of this Convention and its core objective of banning anti-personnel mines and reducing the humanitarian suffering caused by their use. Despite various challenges, the Convention has established a solid normative framework and have proven its effectiveness as a multilateral forum for the realization of the collective efforts and cooperation among all stakeholders. Japan remains fully committed to the implementation of the Convention and continues its efforts to achieve a mine-free world.

I would like to work closely in the coming year with the Cambodian Presidency, the ISU team as well as all stakeholders to ensure the successful conclusion of the Fifth Review Conference and the adoption of a new action plan. I wish you all success with the meeting this week, and I look forward to meeting you all soon in Geneva.

I thank you, Mr. President