



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement delivered by Mr. Shigeru UMETSU,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the
Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
Wednesday 21 June 2023

Mr. President,

Japan welcomes all the states that are not yet party for their participation in this meeting as observers. We are pleased to have heard all the efforts on mine action by states that are not yet party and their commitments that fully align with the norms and the principles of the Convention. This is very encouraging.

We also appreciate the efforts and activities by the President for further universalization including the initiative through the informal Universalization Coordination Group (UCG) to promote universalization with a coordinated and collective approach.

Japan believes that it is important to intensify our joint efforts in the lead up to the Fifth Review Conference next year and foster engagement by all states parties for further universalization.

Given the fact that most of the 33 countries that are not yet party to the Convention belong to the Asia-pacific region, universalization in the region is one of the key challenges of the Convention. As a member of informal UCG group, Japan is committed to engaging in promoting the importance of the Convention in the Asia Pacific region and contributing to the initiative by the German Presidency.

As a part of the endeavor, Japan, together with states parties in the ASEAN region, hosted a lunch meeting in Geneva in April to exchange views on the Convention with some ASEAN states that are not yet party. In May, Japan also held constructive discussions with the government of Lao PDR on the Convention through the Japan embassy in Vientiane, and participated in the joint initiative by Switzerland in Nepal.

We sincerely hope that their continued commitments and positive consideration will lead towards joining the Convention. We look forward to working together with all states to achieve a mine-free world in the future.

I thank you, Mr. President.