

Video statement at opening by H.E. Motegi Toshimitsu, Minister of
Foreign Affairs of Japan

- ◇I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all those involved in convening the 22nd Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.
- ◇Even today, the devastating damage caused by anti-personnel mines continues to be felt around the world.
- ◇ Moreover, amid the severe international environment, the Convention is also facing unprecedented challenges.
- ◇ Against this backdrop, we extend our heartfelt welcome to the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Kingdom of Tonga as new States Parties to the Convention.
- ◇ Japan, as this year's President, seeks to make this Meeting an opportunity to reaffirm our shared commitment to the Convention.
- ◇Let us engage in frank discussions to translate the "Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan," adopted last year, into concrete outcomes.
- ◇We hope that fruitful discussions at this meeting will contribute to further promoting the implementation of the Convention.
- ◇In October this year, I hosted the Ukraine Mine Action Conference.
- ◇Going forward, Japan seeks to continue to work in close cooperation with other countries, to lead efforts to develop the Convention and promote international mine action.
- ◇Let us continue to move steadily toward the realization of a "mine-free world." Thank you for your attention.