



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

**Statement delivered by Ambassador Ichiro OGASAWARA
Permanent Representative of the Delegation of Japan to the Conference on
Disarmament
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties
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Mr. President,

At the outset, Japan would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Göbel, on your assumption as President of the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties and express our sincere appreciation for your dedication to the Convention. We also appreciate the Chair of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance for your leadership in guiding the work of the Committee. Japan remains fully committed to implementing the Oslo Action Plan and to promoting cooperation and assistance as a member of the Committee.

In FY2022, Japan has extended assistance for mine action of over 52 million USD in 22 countries and regions through relevant international organizations and NGOs. Japan's assistance policy in mine action prioritizes the following three areas. First, continuous support for mine clearance activities in countries with serious landmine and unexploded ordnance impacts. Second, promotion of regional and South-South cooperation. Third, comprehensive victim assistance. Japan attaches great importance in particular to facilitating South-South cooperation among affected countries in sharing experiences and enhancing national ownership.

Japan has begun cooperation with Cambodia on mine action for Ukraine, drawing on our experience and expertise in mine action and reconstruction. In January this year, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) invited Ukrainian demining experts to Cambodia for training in the use of the latest Japanese landmine detectors called ALIS as well as on risk education for residents in Ukraine. The Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), who are proficient in ALIS technologies, served as instructors for the State Emergency Service of Ukraine along

with a Japanese expert. This July, the second training session was conducted in Poland. Japan hopes these training would improve the safety and efficiency of demining operations in Ukraine and our 'triangular cooperation' will be extended to other partnerships.

In Africa, Japan has also been implementing initiatives on South-South cooperation. In October this year, JICA organized a workshop on mine action in Nairobi, in cooperation with CMAC and UNMAS, for Somalia, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Nigeria. CMAC shared its expertise on baseline survey and NTS with partner countries in Africa, which was meaningful and well received. A further follow-up to this workshop will be held in due course. Japan hopes that further partnerships will be established among JICA-CMAC-UNMAS and African countries.

Japan has also supported comprehensive victim assistance programmes, including rehabilitation in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Palestine and Sri Lanka, and risk education programmes in Afghanistan, Benin, and Palau in 2022 through our implementing partners.

JICA has also been engaged in projects to strengthen institutional capacity for rehabilitation in Colombia in the past and is currently implementing a national training programme for experts who support victims. This programme aims at building sustainable victim support system in Colombia and both Japanese and local counsellors are engaging in this training. Our approach on victim assistance focuses on social integration through comprehensive support to disabled people, both landmine victims and those affected by other disasters and non-conflict situations.

Japan, as a staunch supporter of the Convention, will continue to support mine-affected countries. As Japan is currently seeking the presidency of the 22nd Meeting of States Parties, and if Japan is elected, cooperation and assistance will be one of the priorities of our presidency. Japan will actively engage in addressing challenges and working closely with states parties and all stakeholders.

Thank you, Mr. President.