



**Draft Statement delivered by Mr. Akifumi FUKUOKA  
Deputy Director, Conventional Arms Division,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tokyo  
21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the States Parties  
Anti-Personal Mine Ban Convention  
Geneva, 23 November 2023**

Mr. President,

At the outset, Japan welcomes the participation of observer states for their engagement with the Convention and is pleased the fact that a large number of states not yet a party share the goals and values of the Convention. Universal adherence to the Convention is key to achieve our aspiration of a mine-free world.

Mr President,

Japan highly appreciates your leadership and outreach efforts on universalization throughout the 21MSP cycle. Japan remains committed to contribute to the efforts under your initiative of informal Universalization Coordination Group (UCG) in the lead up to the Fifth Review Conference (5RC) and beyond. Japan would also like to highlight the importance of the engagement of all States Parties in this effort.

Given the fact that the 14 of the 33 countries that are not party belong to Asia-Pacific region, universalization in Asia Pacific region is one of the key challenges of the Convention. This October, Japan had an opportunity to participate in dialogue with States Parties in Pacific region under the initiative of German presidency at the margin of the UNGA First Committee in New York, and also joined informal consultation on ways forward of further universalization at the margin of the Third Global Conference on Victims' Assistance in Phnom Penh.

Japan values the continued dialogues with states outside the Convention and remains available to assist them. We understand that tailored approach is necessary as each states has different circumstances. Japan will continue to work with all stakeholders toward further universalization.

Thank you, Mr. President