

Statement by Japan
At the Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Agenda 8(e) International cooperation and assistance

Mr. President,

Cluster munition remnants and other unexploded ordnance which remain in countries and regions post-conflict have the potential to cause indiscriminate harm to civilians and hinder reconstruction and development activities. Based on this understanding, we recognize the importance of sustainable cooperation to stabilize society and protect civilians in affected regions including through the clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants and other unexploded ordnance, risk reduction education, victim assistance, and capacity building.

Japan has demonstrated its consistent commitment to international cooperation, from the perspective of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, through preventive efforts, such as risk reduction education in addition to support for clearance and destruction of unexploded ordnance and victim assistance.

For example, Japan provides various forms of assistance in Sekong, Saravane and Champasack provinces in Lao PDR, where the damage caused by unexploded ordnance is significant. In highly contaminated areas such as these, improving efficiency is a critical issue. For example, although the removal of shrubs is an essential preliminary step in the clearance of unexploded ordnance, it is both difficult and dangerous. To overcome this difficulty and accelerate clearance work, Japan is dispatching UXO and machine experts and providing shrub and UXO removal machines in order to accelerate the work while building capacity. The goal of this project is to support the improvement of unexploded ordnance removal capacity by promoting mechanization and expert training to facilitate removal of unexploded ordnance in highly contaminated and low-income areas.

In 2019, Japan provided support, including a total of about \$37 million, through various channels such as bilateral relationships, international organizations, and NGOs in a wide range of fields, including mine and UXO clearance and risk reduction education.

We intend to continue to contribute to the promotion of mine and UXO action around the world.

Thank you Mr. President.