

Statement by Ichiro OGASAWARA
Ambassador, Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
At the Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Agenda 8(a) Universalization

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time that Japan takes the floor, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to you and your team for your tireless effort to realize this review conference amidst the extraordinary situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Japan assures you of our full support toward the success of the 2nd review conference.

First of all, I would like to welcome and congratulate the new States Parties which have joined the convention since 9th MSP September last year, namely, Maldives, Sao Tome and Principe, Niue and Saint Lucia.

Stead increase of the number of States Parties is encouraging. Nonetheless it is regrettable that we were not able to achieve the target established in the Dubrovnik Action Plan to increase the number of States Parties to 130. In this context, Japan believes it is essential to renew our commitment to the universalization of the Convention.

In order to further promote universalization, it is necessary to deepen our understanding about the specific nature of obstacles preventing each Nonmember State from joining the Convention. Regional discrepancy in terms of degree of universalization should also be noted. For example, African region is more advanced than Asian region in this regard. A better understanding of both individual and regional reservations may allow us to better assist and facilitate Nonmember States to become a party to the Convention.

It is from this perspective that Japan highly appreciates the paper submitted by Chile and the Philippines in their capacity as coordinators for the Universalization of the Convention.

Mr. President,

Japan is concerned about the continued use of cluster munitions which run against our joint efforts to universalize the norms enshrined in the

Convention. In this regard, Japan notes the statement issued by the Presidency of Switzerland and the declaration of the EU High Representative regarding the recent alleged use in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Finally, Mr. President,

To end the harm caused by cluster munitions, Japan will continue to work in cooperation with other States Parties toward the universalization of the Convention and its norms.

Thank you Mr. President.