

## **6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

(5 - 7 September 2016, Geneva)

### Statement on International cooperation and assistance by JAPAN

Thank you, Mr. President,

At the outset, Japan would like to express our gratitude to the Committee for its tireless efforts to facilitate the discussion on this important theme of international cooperation and assistance.

Remnants of cluster munitions pose a threat to people's lives, livelihood and dignity. It causes indiscriminate suffering to civilians and obstructs economic development and reconstruction. Acting upon the various issues caused by remnants of cluster munitions, as a State Party to the convention and from the perspective of defending human security, Japan has been actively providing support to mine action. Since 1998, Japan has provided approximately 670 million US Dollars to clearance, victim assistance and risk reduction education in 51 countries and regions.

From the viewpoint of realizing a peaceful and stable society, mine and unexploded ordinance (UXO) clearance is regarded as one of the important challenges in the "Development Cooperation Charter" of Japan, which was approved as a cabinet decision in February last year. In the process of formulating Japan's International Assistance Projects, we examine each specific project on a case-by-case basis, based on the "Development Cooperation Charter" and some other documents.

Mr. President,

Japan continues to put importance on south-south cooperation as an effective measure in the field of clearance of mines and UXO. It is carried out in a way that affected countries share their expertise and know-how in clearance, thereby, building confidence and contributing to peace building at the regional level. Japan continues to carry out the so-called, triangular cooperation projects, with affected

countries and held workshops on various topics, such as techniques, training, making of national standards, victim assistance, and dispatched experts as advisors for management capacity enhancement in UXO clearance and promotion of poverty eradication.

Mr. President,

Japan's contribution to Mine Action programs in 2015 FY reached approximately 49 million US dollars in 19 countries and regions. We have carried out various projects, which provide grand aid and technical cooperation, such as capacity building projects on clearance of UXO and landmines, for improvement of equipment for demining activities, and for explosive hazard management.

Aiming to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by remnants of cluster munition, Japan will continue to extend international cooperation and assistance and cooperate with impacted countries as well as the international community.

Thank you, Mr. President.