

Statement by Japan on Cooperation and Assistance
April, 2013 CCM Intersessional Meeting

On behalf of the Delegation of Japan, I would like to thank the Mexican and Swedish coordinators for their hard work and preparations for this Working Group.

As a State Party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, Japan supports the Landmines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) affected countries to implement their treaty obligations.

Despite facing a very harsh financial situation in the 2012 financial year (FY - March to April 2013), the government of Japan allocated 57.6 million USD for over 41 projects in 22 countries for landmine/UXO action. The scope of "Mine Action" includes landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war. The top recipients of aid were Lao PDR, African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA), Afghanistan, Mozambique and Cambodia. The total amount of Japan's accumulated assistance since the 1990s has been approximately 526 million USD in more than 45 countries.

Lao PDR became the top recipient of the landmine and cluster munitions related funds from Japan in FY 2012, and received a total of 15 million USD for six projects. Japan's substantial commitment towards Lao PDR reflects our strong resolve to assist the country most seriously affected by cluster munitions. These projects included grant aid to NGOs, equipment procurement, the dispatch of a UXO expert, and a 3-year triangular cooperation project between the Cambodia Mine Action Center (CMAC) and the UXO Lao facilitated by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Cambodia's mine-action agency, CMAC, had been chosen as a major partner for triangular cooperation with Japan and other countries in part because JICA had supported its institutional development since the late 1990s. CMAC has extensive experience and knowledge in policy implementation and management skills that they can share with other UXO affected countries. According to reports from JICA, south-south cooperation is effective and

cost-efficient, while it increases the motivation of all partners involved.

In this particular case, workshops have been and will be held in Japan, Lao PDR, and Cambodia. This experience sharing will cover eight areas of UXO action: demining, survey, building national standards and SOP, mine risk education, victim assistance, information system and data management, training programmes, senior management and middle management, linking mine action and development. We believe that the sharing and net-working of mine/UXO action officials can contribute to the deepening of mutual understanding and confidence-building, which may even lead to a strengthening of bilateral relations.

Some States Parties have a long way to go to implement its obligations under the Convention. We hope that a concerted effort by all partners and an enhanced national ownership will help States Parties of the CCM in reaching their treaty obligations.

Thank you.