

Statement by Japan on Cooperation and Assistance
CCM intersessional meeting April, 2014

Mr. Coordinator(s), Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Delegation of Japan, I would like to thank the coordinators, Sweden and Chile, for their hard work and preparations for this Working Group. We also thank the representative of CPADD, CEDDEX, and LMAC for making the presentations. It has been a pleasure to be able to support CPADD's activities together with France.

It is our great pleasure to provide an update as a state in a position to provide assistance, and to share our experience on efforts to facilitate south-south cooperation.

Japan has provided assistance in clearance, risk reduction education and victim assistance projects in countries affected by cluster munitions remnants since prior to the CCM's entry into force. In financial year 2013 (April 2013 to March 2014), the government of Japan allocated 52.3 million USD for 45 mine action projects in 22 countries. During that period, Japan continued to provide assistance to those countries heavily affected by cluster munitions and UXOs, including Lao PDR, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Libya, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Similar to the previous financial year, Lao PDR received an additional 12.3 million USD in 2013, which is one of the largest amounts of assistance in mine action support from Japan. In December 2013, an exchange of notes was signed for the "Project for Acceleration of UXO Clearance for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication" under the presence of the leaders of both countries, which was worth 864 million yen.

On south-south cooperation, Japan has been providing assistance to facilitate cooperation between Lao PDR and Cambodia. Since the 1990s, the Japanese government has been providing assistance in the form of grants, to purchase the necessary equipments and dispatching experts for the purpose of technical assistance to the Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC). Our long-term partnership has contributed to the accumulation on knowledge, experience and capacity in CMAC. The Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao), also has rich experience and technique for UXO clearance. With the aim toward sharing each other's knowledge and experiences, JICA embarked on

a south-south cooperation or triangle cooperation between Japan, Cambodia and Lao PDR from 2011. Through workshops and symposiums held in Vientiane, Phnom Penh, and Okinawa, common challenges for mine action in both countries have been identified. Since 2012, we started to carry out south-south cooperation on a full scale by covering priority areas and themes, including clearance technique, survey, setting national standards, risk reduction education and information systems. Furthermore, in addition to the launching of the south-south cooperation, since 2011, Japan dispatched a UXO expert to UXO Lao, in order to carry out capacity building and to facilitate south-south cooperation.

Our south-south cooperation assistance in the field of mine action has been implemented not only between Cambodia-Lao PDR, but also Cambodia-Colombia, and Cambodia-Angola. We sincerely hope that these projects will contribute to the acceleration and quality management of mine action around the world.

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.