STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MR. MITSUHIRO KOHNO DIRECTOR OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS DIVISION, DISARMAMENT, NON-PROLIFERATION AND SCIENCE DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TOKYO

Intersessional Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) : Regarding Article 21

GENEVA, 30 JUNE 2011

Thank you, Mr. President.

Japan briefly expresses its view on the statement by the CMC.

The starting point to establish the CCM is to avoid unhuman activities to the civilians, and that is one of the main reasons why many States Parties regard the CCM as a kind of International Humanitarian Law. In this context, the use of the cluster munitions at the joint or single military operations is fatally under control with the professional skills in the limited area, so that it is not feasible to discuss the interpretation of inter-operativity among this intersessional meeting under the absence of the appropriate officials.

Japan understands that Article 21 is the production of compromise to launch the CCM as soon as possible.

With regard to the financing activities by the private sector, it seems there is no clear agreement on the interpretation of the relevant articles. So long as we have the historical fact, it would be realistic that each State Party tries its best to keep communication with their private sector.

Thank you.