

The Meeting of the Standing Committees of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

Talking points of the Delegation of Japan

Geneva, 2-6 June 2008

Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention (2 June Afternoon; 6 June Morning & Afternoon)

2. General status of universalization

Up to the present date, Japan has been working actively to universalize the Ottawa Convention in the Asia Pacific region. In addition, not only have we been making efforts towards States within the Asia Pacific, but we have also been seizing every appropriate opportunity within bilateral talks to encourage other States not party to the Convention to join.

Last year, Japan held bilateral discussions with the 17 Asia-Pacific States not party to the Convention, including Palau, which acceded in November, and with the Republic of Georgia to promote their accession. Furthermore, during these efforts, Japan directly enquired about the difficulties each State was facing in the ratification of the Convention.

5. Article 3: Updates on plans for and use of mines retained for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques

- Since the Dead Sea Progress Report, Japan has provided information within its Article 7 reports on the amount, model and other required details regarding its mines retained for reasons permitted under Article 3, which we submitted before 30 April this year.
- In accordance with the exceptions in Article 3, Japan has used anti-personnel mines for the purposes of training in mine detection, mine

clearance, and mine destruction techniques, as well as for developing mine detection and mine clearance equipment. Within its annual Article 7 reports, Japan has supplied information on the use of its retained mines and the results of such use. Specifically, we have provided data on: (1) mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques developed and under development; (2) training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction; and (3) the number of personnel trained. In 2008, Japan plans to use anti-personnel landmines retained under Article 3 for the purpose of training infantry and engineering units of the Self Defense Force in mine detection and mine clearance.

Japan's situation concerning mines retained in accordance with Article 3

- In accordance with Article 3 of the Convention, Japan retains anti-personnel mines for the purpose of training in and development of mine detection, mine clearance and mine destruction techniques (At the time of entry into force in 1999: 15,000 retained. As of December 2007: 3,712 retained). However, the number possessed is the minimum absolutely necessary for training the Self Defense Force units and technology development trails.