

Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies (25 and 26 June)

Japan's Statement

As follow-up to the implementation status of Japan's new mine action policy announced at the First Ottawa Review Conference, I would like to share with you a brief overview of our assistance in mine clearance for fiscal year 2007.

In fiscal year 2007, Japan provided approximately \$52 million U.S. dollars to 14 countries and regions in the field of mine clearance through bilateral aid, UN agencies and NGOs.

As a specific example of assistance, Japan has decided to contribute to a project titled "Mine Clearance Plan for Central and Eastern Africa" to support Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chad by providing approximately \$92 million U.S. dollars through UNMAS. The objective of this project is to produce a distribution map for mine clearance and mine risk education in the aforesaid countries, and to conduct mine risk education activities for local citizens. The results of this project have contributed to the return of 200,000 refugees in Sudan; the reduction in injuries to internally displaced people caused by landmines; and progress in the reconstruction of regions and increased security for citizens within all the target countries.

As another example of Japan's assistance in mine clearance, Japan decided to aid the "Demining and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Project" in the Bagram District of Parwan Province, Afghanistan. Japan provided approximately \$8.4 million to Japan Mine Action Service, a Japanese NGO. The objective of this project is to carry out minefield clearance in the Bagram District, one of the most heavily landmine and UXO contaminated regions in Afghanistan, and contribute to the reconstruction and development of the whole area.