

May 12, 2003. Japan/ Intervention by Ambassador Kuniko Inoguchi, Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament General Status of the Convention/ Universalization

First intervention responding to the Canadian MP's statement

It is indeed very inspiring to hear about the commitment of Parliamentarians to our goals. Japan does have a very strong Parliamentary Union on Mine Action, and I am able to give you an example

of the commitment of our Parliamentary Union. When we destroyed our last

stockpile on 8 February, our Parliamentary Union on Mine Action was successful in inviting the Prime Minister of Japan to the destruction site, and it was indeed our Prime Minister himself who directly gave the

order to destroy our last stockpile. One of the encouraging aspects of having such political initiative is that we succeed in winning wide press coverage on the issue, which most effectively promotes public awareness of the need for Mine Action. Also, Parliamentarians are able to help build confidence in Government-NGO relationships. I can wholeheartedly agree with everything which was stated by the Honorable

,and will certainly report to Tokyo of her statement. As she has stated,I believe trans-Pacific Parliamentary Union cooperation between Japan and Canada in Mine Action would be very meaningful.

Second intervention on Japan's efforts for universalization

Allow me to take the floor again, Mr. Co-chair. I would like to report to you on our efforts to promote universalization, since I come from a region that needs an extra effort to push for universalization. In this regard, Japan is particularly pleased to see Timor-Leste so swiftly accede to the Convention. Japan's efforts in recent months include the following two initiatives. Firstly, we were pleased to support the Phnom

Penh Regional Seminar entitled "Building a Cooperative Future for Mine Action in Southeast Asia", held on 26-28 March. It was particularly encouraging to see the participation of a number of countries that still

remain outside the Convention, including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Brunei, and also countries like China and Singapore. China participated very actively in the discussion. Secondly, in January, Japan hosted in Tokyo what is called the Second Subcommittee of the Tokyo Defense Forum, which

was chaired by our Director of International Policy Planning from our Defense Agency. It was attended by more than 20 countries from the Asia Pacific region, including China, Russia, the Republic of Korea and the US. The Chair's Summary pointed out that anti-personal mines cause unacceptable humanitarian tragedies and Japan asked those who have not yet become Party to the Convention to take a more positive look at it, and to join the Convention.