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Subject: Fwd: Statement by Japan on the proposed rational response to newly discovered unknown mined areas after deadlines have passed

Discovery of previously unknown mined areas after Article 5 deadlines have passed

Mr. President, Co-chairs,

•On behalf of the delegation of Japan I would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Indonesia and Zambia, for their tireless efforts to organize discussions on this matter, and all those countries that contributed to those discussions to compile this useful paper and put forward a 'rational response' proposal for us all. The rational response proposal is indeed a rational one and we support this proposal to its full extent. We also concur with the opinion of the Co-chairs and that of Australia just expressed that these are circumstances that should occur only in the most extraordinary instances. We also appreciate Germany, Hungary and Niger for informing the states parties about their discovery immediately and taking further action swiftly.

•If we may, Japan would like to propose to add a few words to this rational response proposal with our sincere hope that this would further contribute to achieving the Convention's objective and purpose. In the situation where previously unknown mined areas are discovered after Article 5 deadlines have passed, we believe that the States Parties should not only immediately report such discoveries to other States Parties, but also inform all local governments and residents surrounding the affected area as soon as possible. Therefore, we would like to propose in numbered paragraph one of the Co-Chair's paper, on the fourth line after the part that reads "the State Party should immediately inform all States Parties" to add the words "and all stakeholders of the affected area", with an eye to raise awareness within the communities and to the greater society about the newly found hazards based on the view that the State Party should be accountable to its own citizens as well as to the international community. We hope this small addition is sound and agreeable and we welcome any comments on this.

Thank you.