

1. Consideration of the organization of the annual Meeting of States Parties

Mr. President,

- Japan supports all the basic points brought to attention by the President's report. As we saw at the beginning of the week, we are positive that placing time limits on general statements and encouraging the distribution of written statements is beneficial in leaving more time for the thematic debates.
- In the President's paper, Japan has particular interest in paragraphs 3(d) and 3(e), and believes that we have reached the stage for examining concrete steps.
- In our view the Convention on Cluster Munitions holds the greatest prospects of potential synergies with the Ottawa Convention. In terms of streamlining the meeting of states parties and cutting costs, first, we would like to seriously examine synergies with the CCM with regards to the inter-sessional meetings. Since the entry into force of the CCM in 2010, there have been various statements on synergies between the two instruments in numerous occasions. And it is our belief that the time has come to deepen discussions on specific measures.
- Regarding synergies with the CCM, Japan recognizes that there are non-States Parties to the Ottawa Convention in the CCM and vice versa. Nevertheless, we are convinced that synergies can be found between some functions of both instruments without producing legal inconsistencies. We believe that the specific problems can be overcome through discussions among the States Parties. What is most important is that the States Parties cooperate with each other in good spirit for the efficient use of our resources.
- Even though it is vital that each State Party has sufficient time to report on the progress of treaty implementation and other issues, we believe that we could hold joint sessions with CCM on overlapping issues during the inter-sessional meetings or the meetings of states parties.
- For example, joint sessions on overlapping themes such as victim assistance or cooperation and assistance could be considered between the two instruments. In order to make this into reality, we

would like to propose to hold inter-sessional meetings back-to-back. That way the States Parties of both conventions could summarize and report on their progress concerning landmines and cluster munitions in a joint session. Because the scheduling for the intersessional meetings and Standing Committee meetings have already been organized by the ISU and secretariat of the CCM for 2013, and because it may be too early to decide something at this meeting, we believe that the more realistic option would be to aim for holding joint meetings starting 2014. To this end, we wish to participate in further discussions in the near future with a view towards taking specific measures.

- We would welcome any comments on the suggestions that we have just made. Furthermore, today is a starting point, and if synergies are to be put into practice, it is necessary to put forward similar suggestions in the CCM. Moreover, cooperation from the ISU and the other States Parties is also crucial.
- We also believe that Italy's suggestion to present the annual budget for hosting the meetings of the States Parties at the beginning of the meeting instead of towards the end of the meeting will allow States Parties to take a look at it in earnest, and we support that proposal.