

Statement by H.E. Mr. Toshio Sano at the  
Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the  
Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-  
Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction  
Geneva, 2 December 2013

Mr. President,

I would like to begin by warmly congratulating you, Ambassador Delmi, on your appointment as the President of the 13th Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. I assure you of my delegation's full support throughout your tenure.

Mr. President,

With only 6 months left until the 3rd Review Conference in Maputo, I believe we, as States Parties, are at a point in time where we need to reflect on whether we have done enough for this Convention and start thinking about the road ahead.

Japan is dedicated to providing support for affected States. Over the last reporting period, we provided over 57 million US dollars of grants for mine action projects in 22 countries, particularly to those heavily affected in Africa and Asia. In addition to supporting international demining organizations, Japan has facilitated south-south cooperation between countries such as, Cambodia, Colombia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Angola. We have been promoting these States to share their experience and expertise with others and thereby confident in its effectiveness.

Japan is going to succeed Australia as the next Chair of the MineAction Support Group (MASG) starting in January 2014. We hope to lead discussions in order to adequately respond to the evolving needs of mine action around the world.

Japan understands that every State is faced with different challenges to meet their goals. As it has always been the case in the past, they require due consideration and tailored approaches based on national ownership with assistance from the international community. With this in mind, Japan wishes to be involved in the Article 5 analysis process and, if agreed by the States Parties, Japan, is willing to take on the role of Co-Chair for the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance at the end of this Meeting of States Parties.

Finally Mr. President,

Japan fully supports the proposed dates and duration for the 2014 intersessional meetings and the 2nd preparatory meeting for the 3rd Review Conference to take place in April 2014. We commend this proposal to hold it subsequently with other related Conventions as an effort to raise efficiency and allow more time to work in the field. We hope such considerations will continue after the 3rd Review Conference.

I thank you, Mr. President.