

Japan's Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance
(Tuesday, 3 December)

Mr. President, Co-Chairs,

First of all, Japan appreciates the President's leadership **for allowing this opportunity to have an in-depth discussion about international cooperation and assistance. We greatly appreciate the informative input by the panelists, the ISU, Mexico and ICRC.**

In response to some of the questions presented—our views are as follows:

- (1) The Standing Committee on International Cooperation and Assistance is a useful forum to grasp a holistic picture of current international cooperation, to exchange information on best practices, and to raise awareness on new challenges. In this regard the Bangkok Symposium on international cooperation and assistance held in June this year, thanks to the sponsorship of the Thai and Australian government **in partnership with Ecuador**, was significantly constructive in terms of having an opportunity for an in-depth exchange of views.
- (2) We recognize that these formal types of meetings are neither intended nor fitting to directly connect donor-countries and affected developing countries for funding pursuits. For those countries that are still in the process of fulfilling their obligations under Article 5 or who wish to boost support for their mine victims, it remains important to prioritize mine action within their national development policy. **Having said this, we believe that the discussions at the Standing Committee on International Cooperation and Assistance, regional meetings, informal meetings and side events helps us to understand the specific challenges in mine action, best practices and lessons learned.**

(3) In January 2014, Japan will succeed Australia as the Chair of Mine Action Support Group, which is a forum for donor countries and international organizations to discuss mine action **between** 2-3 times per year. We would also like to inform the 13MSP participants that the MASG website in the E-Mine homepage **provides** – information **from** donors **regarding** their cooperation policy, in addition to the information posted on the “platform for partnerships” website

(<http://www.mineaction.org/resources/documents/masg>). If States Parties, international organizations, or implementers, **wishes** to have a particular theme for the MASG to discuss, for example, on a particular mine action agenda or specific challenges that you **encounter**, we encourage you to contact our delegation.

Returning to the theme of utilizing the Convention’s machinery, Japan will **soon** post more information about our cooperation and assistance to the “platform for partnerships” website. We hope it will assist in increasing transparency and understanding about our mine action policy.

Mr. President,

Japan is determined to continue our efforts on enhancing international cooperation and strengthening the efficiency and impact of international assistance together with our partners. **Our** –aim is to accelerate the process for achieving the goals of this Convention **and we hope to contribute further in the policy discussions ahead.**