

2015 APMBC 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties (14 MSP)  
(30 November - 4 December 2015, Geneva)  
Statement by JAPAN

Universalization

Thank you, Mr. President,

Since this is the first time to take the floor, we would like to warmly congratulate you on your appointment to the Presidency of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Our delegation assures you of our utmost support throughout this meeting.

Mr. President,

The convention has achieved the largest number of States Parties amongst all the conventional arms related conventions. We are of the view that the norms of the convention have been universally acknowledged. While recognizing the tremendous progress already made, we witness that in recent years, the pace of universalization has slowed, and countries with large stockpiles and/or producing anti-personnel mines still remain outside of this legal framework. Universalization remains an enduring challenge for each State Party to tackle.

Japan attaches great importance to promote universalization in particular in the Asia-Pacific region, as 15 among 35 States not party are from the region. As we recognize that universal acceptance to the convention is most needed in this region, we need to further our efforts to call on those States not party to ratify the convention.

Mr. President,

Accelerating universalization of the convention will require persistent action by all States Parties, and will take considerable time. We agree with

the view that high level outreach to States not party would be effective to achieve better results . Taking this opportunity, we would like to reiterate our utmost respect and appreciation to the Special Envoys for the convention, namely, Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium, and His Royal Highness Prince Mired of Jordan for their dedication and contribution.

Mr. President,

Japan has carried out universalization efforts to States not party through bilateral meetings, bilateral disarmament dialogues, and diplomatic demarche via our overseas missions. Japan will continue to make such efforts to pursue universal adherence to the convention.

Thank you, Mr. President.