

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

**Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance**

Thank you, Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Committee for its tireless efforts to facilitate the discussion on this important theme of international cooperation and assistance.

As a State Party to this convention and from the perspective of promoting humanitarian demining, development and ensuring human security; Japan has been actively providing international support to mine action.

From the viewpoint of realizing a peaceful and stable society, mine and unexplosive ordinance (UXO) clearance is regarded as one of the important challenges in the Development Cooperation Outline which was approved as a cabinet decision in February 2015. Japan has various forms of development cooperation schemes, and in the field of mine action, Japan has actively carried out various projects which provide grant aid and technical cooperation for mine and UXO clearance, victim assistance, and mine evasion education.

Japan's international cooperation for mine action amounted to 52.3 million US dollars in 2013 and 49 million US dollars in 2014. From 1998 to March 2015, Japan donated approximately 622 million US Dollars to mine action in 50 countries and regions.

Mr. President,

Japan has recently promoted south-south cooperation and triangular cooperation in the field of mine and UXO clearance. The JICA and others facilitated cooperation between Columbia, Angola, and Lao PDR through Cambodia.

In March this year, JICA invited Director General of Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC) and the Head of Angola's mine action authority or INAD to a seminar held in Tokyo, and in April this year JICA also invited CMAC Director General and National Programme Director of UXO Lao to seminars held in Tokyo and New York. Those representatives made presentations on the activities of their organizations and the benefits of south-south cooperation. As for the seminar in New York in April, which was jointly organized by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and JICA, Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN worked together with co-organizers to host the seminar as part of the activities which celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Mine Awareness Day. We are pleased to note that with approximately 50 participants from diplomatic missions and other organizations; we had very fruitful and lively exchanges of views and opinions at the seminar.

With regard to the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC), which is to be established in Cambodia to address the issue of land mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), we are pleased to note that in November last year Japan extended financial contribution to Cambodia to host a regional seminar on establishment of ARMAC. We also welcome the 2<sup>nd</sup> seminar held in August in Cambodia.

Mr. President,

In January 2014, Japan assumed the Chair of the Mine Action Support Group (MASG), which is a forum for donor countries to share information and discuss current issues on mine action, for the period of a two year-term. As MASG Chair, in July 2014, Japan hosted an emergency meeting on the situation in Gaza, which aims at supporting UXO clearance action. The meeting enabled participants from 20 countries to share information on the situation in the area and led to Japan's pledge of 3 million USD. We are also pleased to inform that MASG arranged a field visit to Colombia in March 2015, which was an invaluable opportunity for the participants including Ambassadors of MASG members to observe the threat posed by landmines and other explosive remnants of wars. We would like to express

again our appreciation to Colombia and UNMAS for the success of the visit. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Italy on the assumption of the MASG Chair next year.

Mr. President,

Japan will continue to promote international cooperation and assistance as an effective tool in tackling mine and UXO issues.

Thank you.