

**16th Meeting of States Parties to APMBC
(18 - 21 December 2017, Vienna, Austria)
General Statement by JAPAN**

Thank you, Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to give my appreciation to the Government of Austria for their excellent preparations in hosting this meeting. I welcome the many side-events and action items to be discussed and look forward to the rich interaction among all stakeholders. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation. We congratulate Sri Lanka for recently joining the Convention as the 163rd State Party, with 34 States still not party to the Convention. Given the volume of our tasks, I will limit my remarks to a few brief points, and will make more detailed statements under the relevant agenda items.

Mr. President,

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the signature of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. We welcome progress made over the past 20 years and note the significance and comprehensiveness of promoting humanitarian demining, development, and ensuring human

security. It cannot be overstated that this Convention has become one of the most important international disarmament treaties.

Mr. President,

Japan welcomes the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2365, which “calls on all parties to armed conflicts to end immediately and definitively any indiscriminate use of explosive devices in violation of international humanitarian law.” We co-sponsored this resolution, which is the first-ever on mine action, noting the serious and lasting threat posed by landmines, explosive remnants of war (ERW) and improvised explosive devices (IED), while also recognizing the positive contribution of mine action to sustaining peace and stability. I hope that it provides additional guidance to all stakeholders to progress further in this field.

Mr. President,

The 2017 Landmine Monitor reports that in 2016 new use of anti-personnel mines were confirmed in Myanmar and Syria, and high numbers of casualties were recorded with a total of at least 8,605 people killed or injured by landmines, ERWs and IEDs. Japan remains gravely concerned about the continued use of anti-personnel mines

and the increase of casualties. In this regard, I hope the 20th anniversary offers the opportunity not only to acknowledge progress made since 1997, but also to reconfirm there is still more to be done.

Mr. President,

In 2014 at the Third Review Conference held in Maputo, Japan announced the following three approaches to mine action: First, Japan will continue to support those countries that are most heavily affected by anti-personnel mines and UXOs. Second, Japan will promote regional cooperation and South-South cooperation. Third, Japan aims to provide comprehensive support to victim assistance.

Through these three approaches, Japan will redouble its efforts for promoting mine action.

Thank you, Mr. President.