

Statement of Japan
Agenda 9(c) Cooperation and assistance
Delivered by Col Jun Yamada

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time that Japan takes the floor, on behalf of the Japanese delegation, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the 18th Meeting of States Parties of the APLC and assure you of our full support.

In addition, Japan would like to thank the members of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance for their effort to promote international cooperation and assistance.

Mr. President,

Antipersonnel landmines which remain in countries and regions post-conflict have the potential to cause indiscriminate harm to civilians and hinder reconstruction and development activities. Based on this understanding, we recognize the importance of sustainable cooperation to stabilize society and protect civilians in affected regions including through the clearance of antipersonnel landmines, victim assistance, and capacity building.

Japan has demonstrated its consistent commitment to international cooperation through preventive efforts, such as risk reduction education, which address the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, in addition to support for landmine clearance and victim assistance.

Japan implements cooperation and assistance on mine-action, based on the following three pillars.

Firstly, continued support for clearance activities in countries which have been seriously damaged by landmines and unexploded ordnance, secondly, promotion of regional and south-south cooperation and thirdly, comprehensive support for victims of landmines and unexploded ordnance.

From this point of view, Japan provided support, including a total of about \$37 million last year, through various channels such as bilateral relationships, international organizations, and NGOs in a wide range of fields, including mine clearance and risk reduction education.

In promoting mine-action, Japan considers South-South cooperation, or triangular cooperation, to be very effective, and Japan is one of the most active donor countries supporting triangular cooperation initiatives. Triangular cooperation enhances ownership of the affected countries while making use of the past development experience and knowledge of developing countries, and is considered to be an effective tool for mine-action. We recognize that these forms of cooperation will contribute to the promotion of regional and global cooperation, as well as complement and supplement bilateral cooperation with the knowledge and experience of developing countries to achieve development results.

Mr. President,

Japan is ready to serve as a new member of the Committee for Strengthening Cooperation and Support.

We would like to make use of our knowledge and expertise to facilitate and strengthen cooperation and assistance.