

Intervention by Japan (Amb. Inoguchi) in the informal consultations session on Stockpile Destruction, afternoon of September 19, 2002.
(previously submitted)
Destruction of Stockpile September 19, 2002.

Thank you Mr. Co-chair,
As head of delegation, I report to you that Japan continues to destroy its stockpile with a view to completing its entire destruction a few weeks before the deadline. We have already destroyed 803 thousand mines, which amounts to nearly 90 % of our stockpile.

Japan is also interested in sharing information on method of destruction and technologies being applied. We are developing environmentally-benign stockpile destruction technologies, and will be making them available to interested States Parties if necessary.

At this point, my delegation would like to echo the point made by Italy yesterday on the prompt action of non-member States. As many States Parties, including Japan, strive to meet the deadline of stockpile destruction, it could be useful to send the message to those countries that remain outside the Convention to start destroying surplus mines so that they are able to meet the deadline of stockpile destruction once they decide to join the Convention. I am sure NGOs have important roles to play in this regard.

We should encourage those remaining outside the Convention to possess less mines so that they can eventually be less strategically dependent on anti-personal mines. This should help them move closer to the moral ground of the Convention, and should help us in achieving our prioritized goal of universalization.
Thank you.