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Statement by the Government of Japan on "Cooperation and Assistance"

8th Meeting of the State Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

21 November, 2007

Let me share with you information on Japan's contribution to mine action since the 7th Meeting of the State Parties.

Based on the policy on mine action stated at the Nairobi Summit in 2004, Japan provided around 17 million US dollars to 28 projects during the first half of this year. They include 20 projects for mine clearance, 3 projects for victim assistance, and 3 projects for mine risk education. As introduced on previous occasions, Japan's policy consists of three principles: (a) consolidation of peace, (b) human security, and (c) cooperation between the government, NGOs, the private sector, and academia.

As an example of Japan's contribution, I would like to introduce a project in Cambodia. At the 7MSP, we mentioned a field test in Cambodia of mine clearance devices produced in Japan. Since then, Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) finished the test last November and issued the final report, and the devices were improved based on it. In September, Japan decided to assist the second phase of the field test. The improved devices will be tested in an actual minefield. The second phase is to be the last phase, and qualified devices will be provided to Cambodia, which aims to make mine clearance safer and more effective through mechanical clearance.

Another example is our decision in June to make a contribution to LAO National Unexploded Ordnance Programme, UXO LAO, and Mines Advisory Group, MAG, through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund. Around 910,000 US dollars and 140,000 US dollars were allocated respectively. Using this support, UXO LAO implements Explosive Ordnance Disposal and MAG trains female EOD teams and procures equipment. MAG's project is promoting gender equality and compliments UXO LAO's project. For

instance, MAG inspects UXO LAO's use of the new equipment.

Finally, I would like to introduce Japan's stance on mainstreaming mine action in development. We think both donor countries and mine-affected countries should seek to integrate mine action into an overall development plan. In fact, Japan is using ODA as a tool for supporting mine action and expects funding proposals to incorporate mine action into development planning.