

Statement by Nobushige TAKAMIZAWA  
Ambassador, Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament

At the Fourth Annual Pledging Conference  
for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention  
27<sup>th</sup> February, 2019, Palais des Nation, Room XI

At the outset, Japan would like to warmly congratulate Norway is taking the Presidency of the Fourth Review Conference to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

This year we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. We have made great strides for implementation over the past 20 years as the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs talked about.

However, at the same time, we must recognize that more needs to be done. And in order to achieve our ambitious goal by 2025; to ensure that there are no more mine victims, and to see that survivors participate in their communities on an equal basis to others, our mine-action efforts need to accelerate and be more effective and efficient.

As mentioned in the President's letter, as we head towards the Fourth Review Conference at the end of the year, we have a real opportunity to agree on concrete steps to furthering the implementation of the Convention over the course of the next 5 years. Therefore, in order to obtain concrete results at the Review Conference, it is increasingly important to raise political awareness against landmine action. In that sense, utilizing international conferences and events, such as the Olympics and Paralympic games, including pre-Olympic and pre-Paralympic games in 2019, could be used to garner attention for our cause.

Mr. President,

Upon signing the Convention on December 3rd, 1997, Japan has been working earnestly on its steady implementation. We engage in such activities as landmine removal, victim assistance, and landmine evasion education through international organizations, bilateral agreements and support to non-governmental landmine removal agencies. These activities have been implemented in 51 countries and regions, and the cumulative amount since 1998 is about 757 million US dollars. Furthermore, Japan places great importance on the activities of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), and for this reason we have financially contributed annually since 2015.

Today, I would like to announce Japan's intention to contribute 35,327 Swiss Francs to the ISU for FY 2019, subject to the completion of the necessary domestic procedures.

Finally, Mr. President,

I would like to reiterate that Japan would like to carry out an active role in cooperation with the international community towards the goal of “ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines” and realizing a world without anti-personnel landmines by 2025.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**END**