Thank you, Mme Coordinators,

Japan recognizes that States Parties are complementary to NGOs to implement the victim assistance project in the field, and actually cooperate with them from such a viewpoint. In the actual implementation of the project, we attach an importance to the capacity building of staff members of the local NGOs to continue the sustainability.

In addition to the bilateral cooperation, Japan disburses funds through the International Organizations such as UNMAS, and some kind of this type of projects have also been implemented ultimately by NGOs.

One of the recent projects of this type was done in Xieng Khouang Province in Lao PDR, which is one of the most seriously affected areas of the cluster munitions. Our government funded approximately 575,000 USD through the NGO called “Association for Aid and Relief”. They edited and distributed a brochure on first aid to the local volunteers as well as conducted a training course with the provision of the relevant aid kit. We also provided the equipment for the risk avoidance education to Lao Government to make this project more effective.

Moreover, Japan implements the technical cooperation through Japan International Cooperation Agency and there is also a good example of cooperation by the private sector to contribute to the land release in Lao PDR. We would like to announce that these good practices will most probably be introduced by a Side Event on the occasion of 3MSP in Oslo with a video demonstration.

Mme coordinators,

Finally Japan would like to touch upon the problem of the definition of the project on victim assistance. It seems that States Parties need to share the common definition with each other regarding which project they should call “victim assistance”. For instance, the treatment of the project to assist rehabilitation center for disabled people or center of vocational training which sometimes or occasionally includes the victims of the cluster munitions but not all the time, differs from country to country. Some countries count this type of project in their outcome for the victim assistance and the others do not. We need to keep it in our mind that this difference may blur the overall shape of the victim assistance by States Parties.

Thank you.