

6th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

(5 - 7 September 2016, Geneva)

Statement on Universalization by JAPAN

Thank you, Mr. President,

Since this is the first time to take the floor, we would like to express our appreciation to the President for your preparation for this meeting and our gratitude to the Committees for their tireless efforts to facilitate the discussion on this important theme of universalization. Also, we would like to congratulate and welcome new states which have ratified or acceded to the convention since the 1st Review Conference.

Mr. President,

As mentioned in the Geneva Progress reports, the number of States Parties has increased up to 100. We would like to commend the efforts by countries and international organizations concerned that brought about such an increase.

However, universalization efforts continue to be an important challenge for us. The Dubrovnik Action Plan suggests that we should make efforts to increase the number of States Parties up to 130 by the Second Review Conference. From a regional perspective, there is a lot to be done in the Asia-Pacific region, while the Central America region has completed universalization in 2014. It seems that some of the countries in the Asia-Pacific region are interested in the Convention, but still have some difficulties, which obstruct them to decide to ratify or accept the Convention. Cooperation and assistance at the regional level and approach would help such countries to find solutions to their problems and determine the challenges that they face in joining the Convention.

In this regard, we would like to commend the initiatives by the ICRC and Cambodian Institution for Cooperation and Peace, which organized the regional meeting, "The global humanitarian problem of cluster munition remnants and the Convention on Cluster munitions as a response" in Cambodia in May this year. Japan supported this initiative and the Ambassador of Japan to Cambodia

participated in the meeting as a panelist.

Mr. President,

Japan is committed to continue to work strenuously towards the promotion of universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and its full implementation on the Opportunity of the World Humanitarian Summit held in Istanbul in May this year.

Ever since Japan has made universalization efforts by encouraging states not party and intends to continue its outreach activities.

Thank you, Mr. President.