

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President,

In this session, we would like to briefly review the road we have passed through, by means of sharing the information on the recent progress in the field of universalization of the CCM after the first Meeting of the States Parties (1MSP), and then discuss together how we can further enhance our activities.

As it is mentioned in Beirut Progress Report, it has so far been confirmed that 17 countries as of today, have become States Parties after the First MSP in Vientiane last year, so the total number of States Parties amounts to be 63, and furthermore, approximately 10 countries are expected to be States Parties by the end of this year.

We welcome all of these new States Parties, and hope that the number of potential civilian victims of the cluster munitions will be decreased as a result of the efforts made by all the States Parties in the field of stockpile destruction, clearance of the contaminated areas and so forth. This will absolutely contribute to the dissemination of International Humanitarian Law in the worldwide context.

As a Friend of the President on universalization of the Convention, Japan has collaborated with several like-minded countries and organizations to implement our task and acted as one team. With regard to the States Parties and Signatories in our team, each of them sometimes focused their activities upon a particular area they are familiar with. Concretely, Lao PDR was active for Asia and Pacific, Lebanon for Middle East, Canada for North America, Chile for Latin America, Belgium mainly for Europe, Bulgaria particularly for Eastern Europe and Zambia for Africa. In addition, the ICRC and CMC cooperated with States Parties in the worldwide scale on a complementary basis.

The main action of the team was to incorporate the issue of CCM universalization in the agenda of the regional multilateral conference which they are entitled to attend, to implement bilateral demarche to request for the ratification, accession and so forth. We hope that the details of these activities will be introduced immediately after the floor is open.

In addition to aforementioned activities, Japan issued co-signed letter with Lebanon in July this year, and sent it to most of the States not Party through Japanese Foreign Missions. In this process our mission tried their utmost effort to meet the officials in charge directly, and gathered information on the reason why these countries have not yet become States Parties.

As a result, it was confirmed that we could categorize the main obstacles for States not

Party.

The first one is, as it may be anticipated, a security reason, which includes the existence of the relevant industry in the country.

The second one is concerning the lack or the shortage of financial or human resources. This item contains the disbursement of assessed contribution, the cost for stockpile destruction and the implementation of the obligations stipulated in the CCM such as the submission of the Article 7 transparency report.

The third category is the issue of perception. This is represented by low prioritization in domestic or foreign policy of States not Party, as well as the lack of the knowledge or recognition of the significance of the CCM itself. It is also related to the communication problem with legislative organizations like National Congress, which is in charge of the establishment of national laws and regulations.

In the following part of this session, any kinds of statements are warmly welcomed. For instance, we expect some delegations to kindly introduce what they have done in the recent days on this issue, and the other to propose how we are able to overcome the obstacles we just mentioned for the sake of the further increase of State Parties.

With regard to the second point, Japan suggested that the capacity building of the government officials by dispatching some experts to States not Party, and the seminar or workshop to strengthen the awareness of the importance of the CCM could be the indicative projects. It is a matter of course that there can be different activities which are more useful or effective than these examples. Any contributions to the argument could be highly appreciated in this sense.

This is the end of our remarks, and I would pass the floor back to the Chair.

Thank you.