

Madam President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express Japan's sincere appreciation to the Government of Lebanon for hosting the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). I would like to congratulate you on presiding over this meeting and I wish you every success and assure you of my delegation's full support.

Madam President,

The experiences of one country can deliver a powerful and convincing message to the world that we can no longer tolerate the tragic consequences caused by the inhumane weapon of cluster munitions. Amid the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of States Parties last year a tragic accident involving two young girls resulting from a cluster munition in Lao PDR highlighted the continuing threat of unexploded ordnances to civilians. Facing this harsh reality, the States Parties reaffirmed their strong will and aspiration to realize a world free from cluster munitions envisaged in the CCM through the Vientiane Declaration. Furthermore, the States Parties adopted the Vientiane Action Plan, which sets out practical steps to be taken towards the shared goal of eliminating the humanitarian suffering caused by these weapons. Today we are gathered here in Lebanon, another country affected by cluster munitions, to gauge the progress made since the 1<sup>st</sup> MSP and to consider further steps to move closer to our common vision.

One of the obvious signs of progress since the last meeting is the steady growth in the number of States Parties to the CCM. More than fifteen States have ratified the Convention since the 1<sup>st</sup> MSP. It is also significant that well over thirty non-States Parties in addition to almost the same number of signatories are participating in this meeting as observers.

Promoting universal adherence to the Convention is one of the core pillars that strengthens its effectiveness. Along with the obligations to be implemented under the Convention, Japan attaches great importance to activities that advance universal adherence to the CCM. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> MSP Japan has been serving in the role as Friend of the President on universalization and has conducted outreach activities to non-States

Parties with support from Lebanon, Lao PDR, Belgium, Canada, the ICRC and the CMC. Through these outreach activities, we have come to recognize a high interest among the non-States Parties in responding to the humanitarian problems caused by cluster munitions as well as the existence of noteworthy momentum towards universality. Japan intends to play an active role in dialogue with States not party to the CCM in order to enhance their understanding of the Convention.

Promotion of international assistance and cooperation is another important pillar which translates vision into action. Japan values the promotion of the framework for cooperation and is actively utilizing this framework. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> MSP the Government of Japan has provided assistance to the clearance of cluster munitions, landmines and other unexploded ordnances, including projects in Lebanon and Lao PDR. The total amount of funding now stands at about 31 million US dollars. In order to reach a step further with no more cluster munition victims, Japan has been continuing to support projects which make a difference to the lives of the people on the ground.

Madam President,

Progress can be made only through each State Party's steady and sincere efforts to put into action measures for the implementation of the Convention. Japan is committed to the full implementation of the CCM and will continue to make practical contributions to achieve this goal. At this meeting, our aim is to measure how far we have come as well as where we are lagging behind in reaching our common objective. Level-headed observations, in this respect, will add impetus to our work of fulfilling the provisions of the Convention. As such, we look forward to having lively discussions with all the representatives of the States Parties, international organizations and civil society, and for our own part, Japan will do its utmost to contribute to what we believe will be a productive and successful week.

Thank you.