

7th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster
Convention (CCM 7MSP)
(4-6 September 2017, Geneva)
Statement by JAPAN

International cooperation and assistance

Thank you, Madame Chair,

At the outset, Japan would like to commend Australia and Iraq for their efforts to facilitate the discussion on this important theme of international cooperation and assistance.

Madame Chair,

Japan has attached great importance to international cooperation and assistance. As a State Party to this Convention and from the perspective of ensuring human security and development, Japan has been providing international support to mine action. In fiscal year 2016, Japan provided approximately 40.3 million US dollars for 37 projects. Since 1998, we have contributed approximately 720 million US dollars to Mine Action programs in 51 countries.

Madame Chair,

Japan has continuously extended assistance to countries heavily affected by mines and UXO (unexploded ordinance), including remnants of cluster munitions.

In Lao PDR, we launched a new project, which may be the world's first initiative to employ a machine to clear cluster munitions. This newly designed machine was provided by "KOMATSU", a Japanese private company, and is capable of crushing cluster munitions with a device known as a "special bucket." This project, led by Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS) and UXO Lao, is expected to reduce the risk of life threatening

incidences and foster the development of affected provinces in Lao PDR. Furthermore, this project will continue for another two years and an extra machine will be added by March of next year.

In addition, Japan also extends assistance to Lao PDR for capacity building, basic training and so on.

In Lebanon, three new projects are on-going in the Southern region where it is heavily contaminated by UXO under the cooperation with Norwegian People's Aid – Lebanon, Mine Advisory Group, and Lebanese Association for Mine and Natural Disaster Action.

Madame Chair,

From the viewpoint of encouraging peace and stability in affected countries, mine and UXO clearance is regarded as one of the important challenges in the “Development Cooperation Charter” of Japan. Aiming to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by remnants of cluster munition, Japan will cooperate with impacted countries and international organizations to identify their needs and challenges, and continue to extend international cooperation and assistance.

Finally, Madame Chair,

Regarding German's “Country Coalition initiative,” it is a really unique concept and we highly appreciate its effort, and will seriously consider what kind of contribution we can make.

Thank you, Madame Chair.