



**Statement by the Government of Japan
Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
(20 September 2021, Geneva)**

Mr. Vice-President,

I would like to express my gratitude to you, Mr. Vice President, and other bureau members, as well as to the ISU, for their efforts in organizing Second Session of Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions even under the difficult circumstances due to the global spread of the Coronavirus pandemic.

We are pleased that this year marks the eleventh anniversary since the entry into force of the Convention. Over the past eleven years, the number of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions has increased to 110 countries and territories, making a significant contribution to the establishment of norms for the non-use of cluster munitions in the international community. It is necessary to continue working towards further universalization of the Convention.

On the other hand, we are deeply concerned that there are still cases of the use of cluster munitions, and harm to civilians caused by unexploded ordnance in the world. In order to end the devastation caused by cluster munitions, as stated in the Lausanne Political Declaration which we will adopt, we, the States Parties, must renew our commitment to this goal. This Review Conference is an important opportunity to review the past five years and to adopt various documents to guide our actions for the next five years. The Review Conference is an important forum to reaffirm the will of the States Parties toward a world free of casualties, suffering and socio-economic impacts caused by cluster munitions.

Japan is conscious of the fact that unexploded ordnance left behind in countries and regions that were once the scene of conflict causes indiscriminate damage to civilians and hinders activities for reconstruction and development. Japan is committed to sustained cooperation to stabilize and secure these countries and regions through the disposal of unexploded ordnance, support for victims, and capacity building assistance.

In 2020, Japan provided a total of approximately US\$39 million to 21 countries and regions, including support for anti-personnel landmine measures. We will continue to promote measures to combat anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance worldwide.

In addition, the management of the Convention is a crucial issue to be addressed, as are the strengthening of its effectiveness and the promotion of its universalization. I would also like to remind the Parties of the importance of taking steps to improve the soundness of the Convention's finances.

We highly appreciate that the efforts on cluster munitions have continued even under the difficult conditions during the Coronavirus pandemic. We hope that the next conference can be held in a fully fledged format after humanity has overcome it.

Thank you, Mr. President.