

2015 CCM 1st Review Conference (CCM 1RC)
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Statement by JAPAN

International cooperation and assistance

Thank you, Madame President,

Japan has attached great importance to international cooperation and assistance. As a state party to the convention and as a state which seriously concerns the adverse effects caused by the remnants of cluster munitions, Japan has actively provided assistance in clearance, risk reduction education and victim assistance projects in countries affected by mines and cluster munitions remnants prior to the CCM's entry into force.

Those projects have been conducted with a view to effectively address the needs of affected countries through bilateral cooperation involving our Embassies and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); while enhancing partnership among stakeholders such as national clearance agencies of recipient countries, Japan's non-governmental organizations, and international organizations.

Over the last five years from 2010 to 2014, Japan's contribution to Mine Action programs reached approximately 218 million US dollars. The total amount of financial contribution to Mine Action programs in 50 countries and regions that Japan has made since 1988 is approximately 622 million US dollars. Japan is the second largest donor to Mine action.

Madame President,

Based on our past experiences in international assistance, Japan will continue, through the Mine Action Program, its support while paying due regard to the three areas, namely, clearance, victim assistance and risk reduction education.

Let me elaborate on Japan's actions in those three areas.

First of all, Japan regards projects in clearance very important as they address developmental and reconstruction hindrance caused by cluster munitions in post-conflict period, and also address issues relating to human security. Japan has continuously extended assistance to heavily affected countries such as Lao PDR (Peoples Democratic Republic), Afghanistan and Lebanon in clearing UXO (unexploded ordinance).

As for Japan's assistance to Lao PDR, which is considered as the most affected country by cluster munitions, Japan started its assistance in 2005, and since then has conducted projects with a particular focus on three points, namely, dispatching of JICA experts, provision of equipment and south-south cooperation.

South-south cooperation has come to draw attention in the field of clearance of mines and UXO in recent years as it is carried out in a way that affected countries share their expertise and know-how in clearance, thereby building confidence and contributing to peace building at the regional level. Japan commenced the so-called triangular cooperation projects for Cambodia and Lao PDR in 2012, and held workshops on various topics such as techniques, training, making of national standards, victim assistance; and dispatched JICA experts as advisors for management capacity enhancement in UXO clearance and promotion of poverty eradication. In April this year, the JICA and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) organized a joint seminar on south-south cooperation in mine action in Tokyo and New York respectively. At the seminars where representatives of national clearance agencies from Cambodia and Lao PDR were also invited, reports on achievements made by relevant organizations and benefits of south-south cooperation were emphasized. For Lao PDR, the transfer of techniques for UXO clearance has been under way by

Japan's NGO since 2006. In addition, Japan has extended assistance to Lebanon in developing a plan of introducing equipment for clearance of mines and remnants of cluster munitions.

Relevant states parties have passed the halfway point in the year of 2015 as Article 4 of the CCM stipulates that clearance shall be completed as soon as possible not later than ten (10) years from the date of entry-into-force of this convention.

Japan, for its part, will continue to support states parties heavily affected by mines and UXO including remnants of cluster munitions in their efforts for clearance so that as many states parties concerned as possible can fulfil their clearance obligations by their deadlines.

Secondly, Japan has attached importance to projects in victim assistance.

From 2010 to 2013, Japan, through Japan's non-governmental organizations, carried out training courses and seminars on emergency treatment in case of UXO explosion with a view to strengthening their capacity in this regard.

Thirdly, Japan has also attached importance to projects in risk reduction education.

We believe that it is essential to prevent civilians living in or around cluster munitions contaminated areas from becoming victims, and awareness raising among those civilians of the risks posed by such remnants is imminent. Japan, through Japan's non-governmental organizations, is conducting educational programs in Afghanistan, with a view to raising awareness of risks posed by mines and UXO and disseminating information on adequate methods to reduce the risks. In March 2015, Japan, through the UNMAS, implemented mine action projects including

those in clearance and risk reduction education for Afghanistan, South Sudan, Somalia, Congo Democratic Republic and the Gaza district of Palestine Authority.

Madame President,

International cooperation and assistance is one of the areas that Japan's representative emphasized at 1MSP in 2010 as an important tool toward the full implementation of convention's obligations.

Drawing on our past experiences in international assistance, Japan will continue to extend international cooperation and assistance.

Thank you, Madame President,