



**Statement delivered by Ambassador Ichiro OGASAWARA,
Permanent Representative of the Delegation of Japan to the
Conference on Disarmament 11th Meeting of State parties of
the Convention on Cluster Munitions
September 2023, Geneva**

Mr. President,

Allow me to congratulate you, Ambassador Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa of Iraq, for your election as President of the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. I would like to commend Mr. President and his team for their excellent preparation. Please be assured of the full support and cooperation of my delegation. I also welcome Ms. Pamela Moraga, as the new ISU Director and express my high appreciation to the ISU for their devoted efforts for promoting the CCM.

Mr. President,

First, Japan condemns Russia's acts of aggression to Ukraine in the strongest terms and is deeply concerned about the civilian casualties from cluster munitions. The series of decisions and acts taken by the Russian Federation are clear and flagrant violations of international law and the United Nations Charter. Japan will continue to work closely with the international community, including the G7, and strongly urges the Russian Federation to immediately cease all attacks and withdraw its troops back to Russian territory.

In addition to the reported use of cluster munitions in Ukraine, damage from cluster munitions are still occurring in Asia, the Middle East, and many other places. In these circumstances, the need for universalizing and promoting the implementation of the Oslo Convention is greater than ever. In this regard, I would like to congratulate Nigeria and South Sudan for

becoming States Parties this year.

Mr. President,

We, States Parties, should renew our commitment and take concrete action “toward a world free of the casualties, suffering and socio-economic impacts caused by cluster munitions,” as affirmed in the Lausanne Declaration. In that context, it is important for States Parties to review the progress of the Lausanne Action Plan at this meeting in order to move it forward.

Furthermore, under the current severe international situation, it is important to provide sustained cooperation to rebuild the lives of people in affected countries and regions through the disposal of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and the strengthening of victim assistance and capacity building, along with efforts to promote the universalization and implementation of the Convention.

Based on this recognition, Japan has emphasized the linkage between humanity, peace and development, and has steadily conducted international cooperation through preventive efforts, such as risk reduction education, in addition to unexploded ordnance removal and victim assistance. In fiscal year 2022, in order to implement diverse projects in those fields, Japan provided assistance totaling more than US\$52 million in 22 countries, including cluster munition disposal and demining activities assistance.

Mr. President,

Japan reiterates its commitment to continue its efforts to promote the Convention in cooperation with other States Parties, for the sake of international peace and stability, and to ensure human security.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to once again strongly call on all non-States Parties to ratify this Convention as soon as possible.

I thank you, Mr. President