



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement by Ambassador ICHIKAWA Tomiko

Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament

13th Meeting of State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

16th September 2025

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Carlos D. Sorreta, for assuming the Presidency of the 13th Meeting of State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Japan appreciates the efforts by you and your team, as well as by the Secretariat in organizing this meeting. You can count on Japan's full support for your efforts to conduct meaningful discussions at the MSP and to promote the implementation of the Oslo Convention.

Mr. President,

Japan welcomes the deposit of the instrument of accession by the Republic of Vanuatu earlier this month. We are particularly delighted that the discussions at the outreach event for Pacific Island States on conventional arms treaties we organized with Australia in April, in which you participated, has led to this concrete result.

At the same time, Japan shares the concern of the President, States Parties, and stakeholders, that with Lithuania's withdrawal in March this year, the number of States Parties to the Convention has decreased for the first time. The situation facing the Convention would not have arisen had Russia not started its aggression against Ukraine, constituting a grave violation of international law, including the United Nations Charter. Japan reiterates its demand that Russia stop its aggression to realize a just and lasting peace as soon as possible.

In light of the continuous reports of cluster munitions use in Ukraine associated with this aggression, and the persistent damages caused by cluster munitions around the world, the need to universalize the Oslo Convention and promote its implementation is greater than ever. We as States Parties must renew our determination and take concrete actions towards “a world free of the casualties, suffering and socio-economic impacts caused by cluster munitions”, as confirmed in the Lausanne Declaration.

Japan continues to attach great importance to the Convention’s universalization. We once again strongly call on all non-States Parties to accede to this Convention at the earliest date possible.

Mr. President,

Regarding efforts to promote implementation, the confirmation by all States Parties at the 12th Meeting of States Parties that they had completed the destruction of stockpiled munitions, as stipulated in Article 3, represents significant progress, and we commend these efforts. We also appreciate the steady efforts in fulfilling Article 4 obligations, including the identification of contaminated areas and the clearance of unexploded ordnance.

Along with these efforts, it is important to provide sustained cooperation and support to rebuilding the lives and livelihood of those affected by cluster munitions, through clearance of unexploded ordnance, and capacity building. Japan has been providing such cooperation, recognizing the peace, humanitarian and development nexus. In FY 2024, Japan provided assistance totaling more than 35 million USD in 22 countries and regions. Japan remains committed to continuing its efforts, in cooperation with other States Parties, to achieve the goals of the Convention so as to contribute to international peace and stability and to ensure human security.

Mr. President,

It is also important to maintain financial stability and secure sufficient financial resources for Conferences and Meetings to achieve the objectives of the Convention. We deeply regret that we were compelled to introduce a 15% contingency in the budget due to arrears, resulting in an increase of assessed contributions. We once again call for the timely and full payments of the assessed contributions, which is an obligation under the Convention.

In conclusion, Japan looks forward to contributing constructively to fruitful discussions during the next four days.

Thank you.