

Japan's intervention (10 (a) Universalization)

Thank you, Mr President.

Firstly, Japan would like to express its gratitude for the tireless efforts of the President, the Coordinators, the ISU, the States Parties and other stakeholders in promoting universalization.

In this regard, Japan welcomes Vanuatu's recent accession to the CCM. However, we also share the concern that Lithuania's withdrawal has resulted in a decrease in the number of States Parties for the first time since the entry into force of the convention.

Japan would like to emphasize that the current situation surrounding the universalization of the convention would not have arisen had Russia not undertaken its war of aggression against Ukraine, which constitutes a grave violation of the UN Charter. We reiterate our strong call for Russia to cease its aggression immediately,.

Furthermore, even in the current degrading international security environment, it is important to strengthen efforts towards universalization, so that as many countries as possible join the CCM, and eliminate the threat and harm caused by cluster munitions.

Japan has prioritized the universalization of the treaty since its accession and has been actively engaging with various countries in this regard. For instance, in April this year, we, along with Australia, co-hosted an outreach event for Pacific Island countries on conventional weapons treaties, including the CCM..

We once again call on states not states Parties to accede to the convention as soon as possible.

Looking ahead to the formulation of a new action plan at next year's Review Conference, Japan will continue to cooperate in discussions on measures to advance universalization of the treaty in the current degrading international security environment.

Thank you very much.