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**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR YOSHIKI MINE
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

**AT THE
SEVENTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITIONS OF THE USE,
STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Geneva, 18 September 2006

Mr. President

I would like to extend my heart-felt congratulations on your assumption of the presidency of this Seventh Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. Let me assure you of my delegations fullest cooperation throughout this meeting.

Mr. President

Since the Sixth Meeting of States Parties last year, Japan has been active in further promoting the universalization of the Ottawa Treaty and fostering an international environment that makes reliance on anti-personnel mines increasingly difficult. Additional to this, Japan has been continuing its assistance to mine-affected countries bilaterally and through international organizations, as well as via NGOs. As actual accomplishments, during the first half of this year Japan initiated 19 support projects in 9 countries, amounting to \$12 million US dollars. As one such project, through the GICHD, Japan is providing aid for basic skills training to deminers in the context of post-conflict reconstruction and development.

Mr. President

Apart from these activities, Japan has been actively engaged in the development of technical capabilities to research and develop mine-clearance equipment for the purpose of improving safety and effectiveness. One example is the programme in Cambodia which is called the "Project for Research and Development of Mine Clearance Related Equipment". Last year we had evaluation tests in Japan as one development of this project. In conjunction with the aim of the practical use of the test equipment in Cambodia, Japan also invited an observer from UNMAS to participate in the Equipment Selection Committee for this project, in order to promote information sharing in the field of technology development.

Lastly, allow me to conclude by saying that we have a solid week of meetings and side events, nonetheless, the Japanese delegation will spare no effort to ensure the success of these proceedings and anticipates the same from all other delegations.

Thank you.