

Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

General Statement by H. E. Mr. Mamoru Shinohara

Ambassador of Japan to Costa Rica

San José, Costa Rica

2 September 2014

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Costa Rica for their hospitality and hard work in preparing for this important event, and I assure the Costa Rican Presidency of Japan's full support during your tenure. Japan praises Costa Rica's extensive contribution to the field of disarmament, as demonstrated in its strenuous efforts for the promotion of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Arms Trade Treaty along with 6 co-author countries, including Japan. I am confident that under the President's able leadership this meeting will turn out to be most productive, thereby helping to address the widespread human suffering caused by cluster munitions.

On this occasion, I would also like to commend the outgoing Presidency, the distinguished Ambassador of Zambia and her team. We applaud Zambia for leading solid universalization efforts throughout your tenure, including linguistically adapted workshops, bilateral meetings and numerous visits to states not yet party. We also look forward to learning this week about the current progress related to the establishment of a permanent Implementation Support Unit. This is based on the understanding that the transition process from the interim ISU to the permanent ISU will commence from the 5MSP up to the First Review Conference in accordance with the 4MSP decision.

Likewise, Japan also appreciates the efforts made by the Coordinators, States Parties, international organizations and civil society as well as the interim ISU. The post 4MSP period has marked concrete progress thanks to their work. We also would like to congratulate those States Parties who have completed their clearance

or stockpile destruction obligations. As we approach the First Review Conference next year, we wish to renew our commitment to achieve further progress in all areas of implementation of this Convention.

Mr. President,

Japan is committed to implement its stockpile destruction obligation under Article 3. We have reported the detailed information on the types and quantities of our stockpiles annually through the Article 7 transparency reports. According to schedule, the destruction of all munitions is due to finish by the end of 2015, and I am delighted to inform you all that the destruction process of more than fourteen thousand cluster munitions is well underway.

Mr. President,

Japan is pleased to have been able to take an active part in the CCM, by continuing to assist countries affected by cluster munitions, through the provision of funding for clearance, victim assistance and risk education efforts. Japan has been offering significant contributions to Mine Action every year, making an additional contribution of roughly 52 million USD in the past fiscal year alone. It is our sincere hope that Japan's contribution will have a positive impact for affected states to accelerate their work in implementing their treaty obligations, and to this end we look forward to exchanging ideas over the course of the Meeting.

The year for the First Review Conference in 2015 also coincides with the target year for the Millennium Development Goals. Japan has been supporting the efforts by affected States Parties, like Lao PDR, who has rightly positioned UXO clearance efforts within their broader national development strategy to meet their development goals. We will continue to work closely with national authorities, international organizations and NGOs in attaining a safer environment for the civilian population and sustainable development.

Mr. President,

It is unfortunate that we have yet to eradicate conflicts around the world, where civilian populations bear the heaviest burden. Japan is deeply concerned by reported

use of cluster munitions in some areas of ongoing armed conflict. While realizing a peaceful world free from conflict is what we wish for most, we strongly advocate that the use of inhumane weapons should be avoided by all means. An increase in the number of States Parties adhering to the Convention would contribute to the stigmatization of cluster munitions and prevent future use. From this perspective, once again, Japan would like to encourage all non-states parties to join the Convention as soon as possible.

Finally, at this Fifth Meeting of States Parties, Japan hopes that all participants will come to identify the remaining challenges to be tackled and further steps to be taken toward the full implementation of the treaty. States Parties in a position to do so may also assist others in fulfilling their obligations sooner through financial or non-financial means. Japan believes that by simply applying the provisions of the Convention thoroughly we will be able to live up to the spirit of the Convention.

Thank you Mr. President.