

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Motome TAKISAWA,
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
At the Second International Pledging Conference for the
Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
28 February 2017, Geneva, Switzerland**

His Excellency Mr. Thomas Hajnoczi, Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations Office at Geneva,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, Japan would like to warmly congratulate you, Mr. President,
on your appointment to the Presidency of the 16th Meeting of States Parties
of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and to extend my appreciation
for your initiative in organizing this Pledging Conference.

This year marks the 20th anniversary since the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban
Convention was established in 1997. Due to the efforts of the States Parties
and relevant organizations, we have made great achievements in various
fields such as steady increase in the number of the States Parties to the
Convention, destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines, destruction of
anti-personnel mines in mined areas and land release, victim assistance,
and international cooperation.

However, we have a lot of work still remaining to be done.

Japan places emphasis on the role that the Implementation Support Unit
plays in order to cope with the remaining challenges and, therefore, has
financially contributed to ISU budget since FY 2015. Today, I would like
to express Japan's intention to contribute 89,669 Swiss Francs to the ISU
for FY 2017, subject to the completion of the necessary domestic
procedures, including the Parliament's approval. We greatly expect that our

contributions will be used in an effective way toward the goal of realizing a mine-free world.

Mr. President,

Since we signed this Convention on December 3rd, 1997, Japan has been seriously working on its steady implementation. Among the obligations to the States Parties, from the perspective of humanitarianism, development, and human security, Japan has put importance on international support to mine action. During the FY 2015, Japan provided more than 49 million U.S. dollars for 35 mine action projects in 20 impacted countries and regions, as well as to international organizations, in order to carry out the various projects in the field of clearance of landmines and ERWs, victim assistance, risk reduction education and so on. Since 1998, we contributed around 670 million U.S. dollars of support in total to mine action programs in 51 countries and regions.

Mr. President,

“The Last Stretch” to realize the mine-free world by 2025 is not an easy challenge. However, aiming to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by landmines, Japan will redouble its effort and continue to cooperate with the international community, in particular, States Parties, international organizations and NGOs.

Thank you, Mr. President.