

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Masakazu HAMACHI, Parliamentary Vice-
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
At the First International Pledging Conference for the Implementation
of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
2 March 2016, Geneva, Switzerland**

His Excellency Mr. Heraldo Munoz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to give my appreciation to Chile, Presidency of the 15th meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, for their initiative in organizing this important event.

In order to address various problems posed by anti-personnel mines and with a view to ensuring human security, Japan, as a state-party, has made strenuous efforts to strengthen mine action that promotes activities such as those for mine clearance and victim assistance. I am pleased to announce that since 1998, Japan has donated approximately 622 million US Dollars to mine action in 50 countries and regions.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan highly values an important role that the Convention has played in addressing the issues caused by anti-personnel mines. Since the entry-into-force of the convention in 1999, States Parties to the convention have implemented their treaty obligations, thereby steadily destroying their stockpiled mines and clearing their mined areas.

However, there remains much to be done toward a mine-free world. The international community once again has to underscore the need to intensify overall efforts to that end, in particular, through the full implementation of the convention.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan attaches great importance to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), and is of the view that its effective operation is instrumental in promoting adherence to the convention by States Parties.

With this in mind, Japan would like to express an intention to contribute

approximately 79,700 Swiss Francs to the ISU out of the budget for fiscal 2016, subject to the domestic approval process at the Parliament.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to urge as many States Parties as possible to join this endeavor to pledge financial resources to the ISU.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(end)