

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Manabu HORII,  
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan  
At the Third International Pledging Conference for the  
Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention  
27 February 2018, Geneva, Switzerland**

His Excellency, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Chair of the Council of Ministers  
of Afghanistan,

Her Excellency, Dr. Suraya Dalil, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of  
Afghanistan to Switzerland and the United Nations in Geneva,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, Japan would like to warmly congratulate you, your  
Excellency, on your appointment to the Presidency of the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of  
States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and to extend  
our appreciation for your initiative in organizing this Pledging Conference.  
On this occasion, I would like to express Japan's intention to contribute  
75,539 Swiss Francs to the Implementation Support Unit for Fiscal Year  
(FY) 2018, subject to the completion of the necessary domestic procedures.

In 2017, we celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption and signature of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Due to the efforts of the States Parties and relevant organizations, we have made great achievements in various fields.

However, a lot of work still remains to be done in order to achieve our important goal of realizing a mine-free world by 2025.

The number of States Parties to this Convention has reached 164. However, some states not yet bound by the Convention have stockpiles and/or produce large amounts of anti-personnel mines. Concerning mine clearance, 30 States Parties have completed their obligations. On the other hand, around the same number of States Parties are continuing to extend their Convention deadline. Collectively, States Parties have destroyed more than 51 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines. The partnership between donor states and affected states has been strengthened through various international cooperation projects, including victim assistance programs. However, it is reported that landmines are still used in conflict areas and the number of casualties in 2016 was the highest since 2000.

Japan places strong emphasis on the role that the ISU plays in coping with the remaining challenges. Since FY2015, Japan has contributed to the ISU's budget, and today, I would like to express Japan's intention to additionally contribute 75,539 Swiss Francs to the ISU for FY 2018, subject to the completion of the necessary domestic procedures. We greatly expect that our contributions will be used in an effective way toward the goal of realizing a mine-free world.

Madam President,

Since we signed this Convention on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1997, Japan has been earnestly working on its steady implementation. Among the obligations to States Parties, Japan has placed importance on international support to mine action from humanitarian, development, and human security perspectives. In order to carry out various projects in the fields of clearance of mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERWs), Victim Assistance, Risk Reduction Education and so on, Japan provided more than 40 million U.S. dollars during FY 2016. Our overall contribution during the last 5 years adds up to around 240 million U.S. dollars in total to mine action programs.

At the Third Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in 2014, Japan announced three approaches to mine action, which continue to serve as a guide for international assistance. The three approaches Japan announced were as follows: : First, Japan will continue to support those countries that are most heavily affected by anti-personnel mines and ERWs. Second, we will promote regional and South-South cooperation. And third, Japan aims to provide comprehensive support to victim assistance. Japan will continue to play an active role in international cooperation and support to end human suffering and casualties caused by landmines and ERWs.

In addition, Japan attaches great importance to promoting universalization, in particular in the Asia-Pacific region. As we recognize that universal acceptance of the convention is most needed in this region, we need to strengthen our efforts and call on those States not party to the Convention to accede to it. .

Madam President,

Achieving our goal of realizing a mine-free world by 2025 is not an easy task. However, aiming to put an end to the human suffering and casualties caused by landmines, Japan will redouble its effort and continue to cooperate with the international community, in particular, with States Parties, international organizations, and NGOs.

I thank you for your kind attention.