

Distinguished Delegates,

I am ERI Arfiya, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. I would like to extend my warm greetings to you all from Tokyo, Japan. It is my great honor to deliver a statement representing Japan on the occasion of the Pledging Conference, following the Fifth Review Conference held in Siem Reap, Cambodia last November, which I attended.

The “Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan” is a road map for States Parties in the implementation and universalization of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention over the next five years.

The Implementation Support Unit or ISU plays a pivotal role in supporting all States Parties in the implementation and universalization of the Convention, and the stable operation of the ISU should be secured over the long term.

In this regard, Japan has provided voluntary contributions to the ISU since 2015, and has so far contributed a total of nearly 480,000 CHF.

Today, I have the pleasure to announce that Japan plans to contribute approximately 2.4 million JPY, or approximately 14,000 CHF, towards the activities of the ISU in 2025, subject to diet approval.

I would like to call for broad contributions to the ISU from States Parties on this occasion of the Pledging Conference.

Distinguished Delegates,

Japan has announced the following four priority areas during its Presidency of the 22nd MSP:

- First, strengthening national ownership and capacity building assistance.
- Second, the application of advanced and emerging technologies in mine action.
- Third, strengthening the synergies between the Women Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and mine action.
- And last but not least, universalization.

The Sponsorship Programme is an important instrument for promoting mine action more widely in the international community by ensuring the diversity of participating States and delegates at meetings of the Convention. Furthermore, the Sponsorship Programme is of great significance in promoting the universalization of the Convention by engaging States not Party.

In light of the significance of the Sponsorship Programme, Japan, for the first time, took the decision to contribute to the Programme and I have the pleasure to announce that Japan contributed 10 million JPY, or approximately 65,000 CHF to the Programme.

I hope our contribution will enhance efforts to achieve our common goal of further universalization. Japan, as the President, will continue universalization efforts, in cooperation with the Special Envoys, members of the Troika and other States Parties.

Once again, I would like to call on all States Parties to renew their commitment to the Convention, and call on States not Party to join the Convention on this occasion.

Distinguished Delegates,

In conclusion, I would like to renew my deep appreciation for States Parties' trust in Japan and the President, Ambassador ICHIKAWA Tomiko.

I thank you for your kind attention.