**Statement by NAKASONE Yasutaka,**
**at Ukraine Mine Action Conference (UMAC2026)**
**November 16, 2026, Brussels**

Your Royal Highness Princess Astrid of the Kingdom of Belgium,

Your Excellency Ms. Kallas, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Your Excellency Mr. Koretsky, Prime Minister of Ukraine,

Distinguished Guests,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, the host country of last year's Ukraine Mine Action Conference (UMAC), I would like to express my deepest respect to the EU, which is hosting this year's conference – UMAC2026.

Last year, the Government of Japan announced the "Ukraine Mine Action Support Initiative." To tern this commitment into concrete action, Japan decided to provide 4 billion yen (about $25 million) in grant aid to the Government of Ukraine, bringing the amount of support for mine action in Ukraine to about $135 million in total.

Allow me to highlight the measures taken by us in line with the three pillars under this initiative.

First, regarding the strengthening of "human resource" and "technology," we have supplied Japan-made mine detectors and mine clearance equipment. They offer higher levels of safety and efficiency compared to conventional models. We even provided mine-detection dogs as well. Also,

we extended support in training in operation and maintenance of this equipment.

Second is the “nexus,” which ensures a seamless transition from mine action into the recovery and reconstruction process. We have a firm conviction that Ukrainian companies will expand their business operations to third countries in the future. The Japanese government is leading and conducting on-site surveys to support industrial development in the field of mine action.

Thirdly, this is about the diversification and strengthening of partnerships. Workshops on information management, quality control, and mine awareness education were held jointly by Japan, Ukraine and Colombia. Japan is also committed to human resource development in collaboration with Cambodia, a country that Japan has supported for many years.

At the UMAC 2026 venue tomorrow, Japanese companies will exhibit at two booths to present new technologies.

The Government of Japan will continue to work on the support even further. Japan will continue to tackle landmine countermeasures through the joint efforts by the public and private sectors.

Thank you very much.