

Statement by Japan  
in Agenda Item 7 (i) Cooperation and Assistance  
at the Fourth Review Conference  
of the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines,  
Oslo, Norway, 28 November 2019

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan, as a State Party to the Ottawa Convention and as a country that values human security as well as humanitarian and development causes, has been active in providing assistance for addressing the issues of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) for more than two decades. Since 1998, Japan has contributed 809 million US dollars to activities against landmines and UXO, and that includes more than 52 million US dollars for 38 new projects provided in the 12 months starting from April last year. Through international organizations, governments of the affected states and civil society organizations, our mine action assistance has reached 51 countries and regions so far, advancing mine clearance, providing support to victims and creating opportunities for mine risk education, among other activities.

As an example of cooperation that we extend, allow me to share with you our experience in Cambodia, our long-time partner in mine action. In a project that was started in 2013, Japan supported the activities of Cambodian Mine Action Centre, or CMAC, to clear 5,600 hectares of land in the heavily mined province of Battambang. The support included a component for agricultural development on the restored land, consisting of development of infrastructure such as rural roads and agricultural facilities, and capacity building on agricultural activities.

The project was succeeded by another project starting from 2016, in which Japan provided CMAC with new mine clearance machines to replace its old ones, in order to accelerate mine clearance to create another 7,000 hectares of land free from mines. The new project again includes agricultural component on the restored land, aiming at ensuring safety in local agricultural activities and improving the livelihood of 210,000 residents in four targeted districts.

Mr. President,

It is with pleasure and pride to mention that our assistance also leads to South-South Cooperation, multiplying impact of the self-help efforts among the mine-affected countries. CMAC now shares its skills and experience with other mine-affected countries such as Colombia, Iraq, Laos, and Angola, through capacity building programs facilitated by Japan.

Japan also has contributed to promoting regional activities. In particular, we have assisted the establishment of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre, or ARMAC. Our contribution has been also channeled through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund to Thailand, Cambodia Vietnam and Laos.

Mr. President,

The recent trend of use of landmines and improvised explosive devices, leading to a large number of civilian casualties, is a grave concern to us all. Conflicts are becoming more complex and diverse. In this relation, the Individualized Approach that formulated by the Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance would be of further help in identifying the needs in different contexts so that affected countries can receive assistance that would suit their unique local contexts.

Japan would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to the Committee members, namely, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey and the United Kingdom, for their dedicated work to enhance international assistance and cooperation towards a world free of mines.

In conclusion, Mr. President, Japan reassures its commitment to playing its role in assisting and enhancing mine action in the world, and will do so in cooperation with other States Parties, civil society, and the international community.

I thank you for your kind attention.