

Statement by Japan

On the Proposal for a Meeting Programme and Related Implementation Machinery

<Third Review Conference 2nd Preparatory Meeting>

Mr. President-Designate,

On behalf of the delegation of Japan, I would like to thank Mozambique for your tireless efforts in drafting and compiling this valuable document. It presents us with useful ideas that are highly relevant in reflecting the lessons learned up to now regarding meeting programmes and structure of the Convention's machinery into the work ahead.

Please allow me to make some brief comments on the proposals.

As the current co-chair of the Standing Committee on Article 5, my delegation supports the idea of replacing this Standing Committee of 2 Co-Chairs by establishing a "Committee on Article 5 implementation" which would be composed of a group of four States Parties. The work of analyzing Article 5 issues and extension requests are time-consuming, however, it is one of the key mechanisms that are vital in promoting the implementation of the Convention. Since multiple article 5 extension requests continue to be submitted each year, the responsibility of the States Parties, especially Co-Chairs, seems to be growing as ever. As a matter of fact, we also note the administrative burden that we have put onto the ISU during the process of carrying out our duty.

The proposed changes regarding the Committee on Article 5 Implementation would indeed enhance and revitalize the analysis process by increasing the number of States Parties taking on this responsibility. However, as the ICRC and ICBL have mentioned, the workload proposed could be larger than anticipated even with the increased number of members. We wish to explore this matter further in future discussions with a view to address this issue.

On the subject of intersessional meetings, regarding paragraph 37, which proposes to hold the intersessional in May or June, we do not have a preference on the timing of scheduling as long as the meetings will be held back-to-back with related international instruments, as spelled out in the same paragraph. The organization of this week's meetings, particularly to hold it back-to-back with the Convention on Cluster Munitions has been extremely gratifying. With the aim of conserving precious resources and organizing discussions in an efficient manner, my delegation desires that this back-to-back scheduling will continue after the Third Review Conference.

I thank you Mr. President-Designate.