

Statement by the Co-Chairs (Japan)
of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance

First of all, let me say that it was an honor for Japan to have served as one of the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance since last December. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the President of the 13 MSP, the fellow Co-Chair of Mozambique, Director of the ISU and all the States Parties, International Organizations and NGOs for their support during our activities.

Let me briefly update the activities since the 13 MSP.

During the inter-sessional meeting last April, Burundi announced that they had completed their Article 5 obligations within the time frame of ten years provided by the Convention. The Co-Chairs would like to congratulate Burundi for their remarkable achievements which symbolize a significant contribution to achieving the purpose of this Convention.

During the meeting, 6 out of 31 states with outstanding mine clearance obligations reported on the status of their clearance obligations. It was encouraging to know that there is a possibility for more countries to achieve the completion of their Article 5 obligations by the end of this year.

Regarding the countries submitting the request for an extension of the Article 5 deadlines, this year there are four. During the inter-sessional meeting, the Co-Chairs assisted the Article 5 analysis group by engaging in informal exchange of views with those countries, providing them with pre-analysis of the requests, and sending letters to the countries concerned with requests for further clarification. We are thankful for the cooperation from those countries who responded to our queries.

We acknowledge that this year there had been less time for preparation to submit the Article 5 requests because we are holding this Review Conference in June. We thank those countries who have worked hard to submit their requests in advance despite the circumstances. We would like to urge the states with outstanding Article 5 obligations in the future to submit their requests well in advance as encouraged in the document on the Reflections on the Article 5

Extension Process

Mine Clearance constitutes the core obligations of the Convention. Over the past fifteen years, twenty eight countries have fulfilled their mine clearance obligations. This achievement underpins and ensures the credibility of the Convention. We need to renew our commitments to end the suffering and casualties caused by antipersonnel mines as expeditiously as possible.

Thank you, Mr. President.