



Agnès Marcaillou, Director, UNMAS

“High Level working lunch on the Horn of Africa”

**TICAD VII
29 August 2019
Yokohama, Japan**

**Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,
All protocol observed,**

On 14 October 2017, over 600 people were killed as the result of a massive IED attack at a busy intersection in Somalia.

Years of armed conflict in the Horn of Africa have resulted in widespread contamination with Explosive Remnants of War, including landmines and cluster munitions; the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and a steady rise in the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Over the past years, extremist groups have used IEDs as their preferred weapon against peoples, governments and the peacekeepers of AMISOM.

The presence and use of explosive devices have a detrimental impact on peacebuilding and state building. They kill and maim and prevent safe movements of populations as well as access to critical infrastructure and reconstruction.

The Government and People of Japan continue to demonstrate their commitment to human security and stability through humanitarian mine action in partnership with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

Their generous contributions allow for risk education programmes, humanitarian clearance, employment of women and youth as well as the provision of additional training to national mine action institutions to clear and manage explosive devices.

In Somalia, UNMAS employs specialized female trainers and mentors in Explosive Ordnance Disposal and IED Disposal, a traditional male dominated field of work.

Japan's partnership with UNMAS in Somalia, like in the Sudan and South Sudan, are tangible examples of the criticality of a triangular relation to achieve the ultimate goal of establishing a safe, secure and peaceful sub-region.

We look forward to partnering with Ethiopia as well as with Eritrea, and Djibouti, to further progress in reducing the threat posed by explosive hazards and support their commitment to peace, stability and sustainable development.

I thank you