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Press Release

The People of Japan Contribute \$ 500,000 USD to support United Nations Mine Action Activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The project will focus on Human Security and Protection of Civilians in in the Democratic Republic of the Congo through the reduction of threats from explosive hazardous items

(Kinshasa, 21 March 2018) The People of Japan made a contribution of USD 500,000 to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action for humanitarian mine action work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Aimed at creating safer environments and more secure communities, this contribution will enable UNMAS DRC to mitigate the threat faced by local communities, internally displaced people and refugees in areas contaminated by explosive hazards. This will be achieved through risk education activities in Tanganyika, South Kivu, North Kivu, Kasai and Kasai-Central, as well as support to the national mine action authority, the Congolese Mine Action Centre to strengthen quality and information management.

This generous contribution from the People of Japan will allow the United Nations to continue strengthening its efforts to enable poverty reduction and sustainable socio-economic development in the DRC through explosive threat mitigation activities

The Embassy of Japan attaches great importance to the consolidation of peace and security as one of the pillars of the Japanese economic cooperation in the DRC. Japan strongly supports humanitarian mine action work so that the DRC Government can meet its commitments to declare a mine-free DRC before 2021 in line with the country's obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, and make the country safer and more productive. Japan shares the vision of the United Nations to achieve a world free from the threat of landmines and other explosive hazards, by supporting the activities of UNMAS and other governmental and non-governmental partners.

Thanks to the Government of Japan's generous contributions for DRC, between April 2014 and December 2017, UNMAS DRC successfully released 103 out of 150 recorded suspected hazardous areas (SHA) and over 1,700,000 m² of land identified during the 2014 National Landmine Contamination Survey. CCLAM, in collaboration with UNMAS DRC and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, and with the financial support of Japan, also drafted and validated DRC's new National Action Plan for mine action aiming to make the country mine-free before 2021 as per its commitment under the Ottawa Treaty.

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Camille Aubourg, UNMAS DRC Programme Officer (New York)

Email: aubourgc@un.org, Tel: +1 917 624 6734

Ms. Cynthia Keza Birikundavyi, UNMAS DRC Programme Officer (Kinshasa)

Email: birikundavyi@un.org, Tel: +243 825001839