

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me express my sincere gratitude of your assumption of Chairmanship to the Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the CCW in 2017. I would also like to highly commend all Stake-Holders for their collective efforts and engagement in support of the Convention and its Protocols. I assure you of my Delegation's full support and cooperation in your endeavors. I support your leadership for this very important Meeting, including chair's report of proposal on financial issues to ensure first resiliency.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the GGE meeting on emerging technologies in the area of LAWS, the Chair of the GGE, Ambassador Gill, has successfully led complicated discussions on our draft report which reflected a broad and diverse range of issues related to technology, military, and legal/ethical elements. This presented an opportunity for experts to answer questions and undertake assumptions, which helped the participants to have a deeper understanding of this matter. I believe our discussion on LAWS should be promoted in a balanced manner in accordance with the mandate. I expect continuity will be ensured for our work both in the chairmanship and substantive discussions next year.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan shares the concerns regarding collateral damage to civilians from the use of explosive weapons in densely populated areas. We also recognize the possible humanitarian impacts posed by irresponsible and indiscriminate use of Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines. This Convention is a very unique forum as it discusses, simultaneously, military requirements and international law in the field of conventional weapons. We firmly believe that this Convention remains the most appropriate forum to discuss how to deal with these types of weapons.

Regarding the decision made last year at the Fifth Review Conference, we will consider how developments in the field of science and technology relevant to the Convention may be addressed during the framework of the CCW. Due to the rapid nature of development in these fields, it is necessary to exchange views in a timely manner, therefore, perhaps we can focus our efforts and prioritize what we should discuss under the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan attaches great importance to the universalization of the Convention. Japan strongly encourages States not party to the Convention to consider ratifying or acceding to it as soon as possible. In this regard, Japan has made universalization efforts by seizing relevant opportunities, especially through bilateral meetings with East and Southeast Asian countries. One approach we could consider is to recommend those States not party to ratify only acceptable Protocols in the beginning as it may be difficult to ratify all Protocols at once. In parallel, while promoting further universalization of the Convention, Japan will also pay close attention to other relevant Conventions which regulate similar types of weapons, such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan remains firmly committed to the Convention and its Protocols, and we place special importance on the submission of the annual compliance reports. In this regard, Japan welcomes the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty which enforces the High Contracting Parties to produce reports. This could complement the Convention as well as the Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Japan believes implementation of those reports under each framework could collectively build transparency and mutual confidence among not only the participating states, but also the international community as a whole.

Mr. Chairman,

We are looking forward to a fruitful and constructive meeting of the High Contracting Parties and assure you of my delegation's full commitment to the Convention and contribution to the discussions, with a belief that wholehearted efforts of the international community can result in a valuable outcome which reflects the spirit of the Convention.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.