



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement by ICHIKAWA Tomiko
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- THEMATIC DEBATE: CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS -
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Mr. Chair,

Over the past 12 months, the world has witnessed numerous civilian deaths and massive displacement caused by military attacks and violent incidents waged with conventional weapons used in warfare. The need for universalization and effective implementation of the instruments and frameworks, to regulate the transfer of conventional weapons and to mitigate their humanitarian impact is more urgent than ever. Japan urges all the UN Member States to join, if they have not yet done so, and to implement the instruments on conventional arms control and disarmament.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty, a powerful and meaningful instrument to better regulate the transfer of conventional weapons. Japan joined the initiative led by the United Kingdom for endorsing the ATT Political Declaration to reaffirm States Parties' commitment to the ATT for the next decade.

Mr. Chair,

Addressing illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW) is of utmost importance, as they have a wide range of humanitarian and socio-economic impacts and remain the source of regional insecurity. Japan welcomes the successful convening of the Fourth Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action on SALW this June. Together with Colombia and South Africa, Japan has submitted a draft resolution on “The Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects” once again this year. Japan strongly hopes that it will continue to be adopted by consensus to reaffirm our collective commitment to address this issue.

Japan remains a staunch supporter of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and their core objective to reduce the humanitarian suffering caused by their use. In the 2023 fiscal year, Japan's contribution to the clearance of mines, cluster

munitions and unexploded ordinance (UXO), surpassed 68 million US dollars across 20 countries. We call on all States Parties to renew their commitment to these Conventions.

Japan will employ its utmost efforts for the success of the Fifth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in Cambodia this November and is fully committed to advancing the effective implementation of the upcoming new Action Plan as the Presidency of the 22nd Meeting of States Parties in 2025.

Mr. Chair,

In the current challenging security environment, Japan recognizes the increasing value of the CCW.

The international community should advance the various categories of discussions under the CCW, in particular in the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS). To ensure effectiveness of international rules, the participation of stakeholders including states with high technological capabilities is crucial while it is also important to ensure inclusivity. From this perspective, Japan believes that the GGE on LAWS will continue to be the most appropriate venue for international rule-making on this issue. It is important to build on common recognition among stakeholders and Japan will constructively participate in relevant discussions to clarify the normative and operational framework on LAWS.

In addition, there is also an urgent need to advance the discussion on the military use of artificial intelligence. Japan welcomes concrete efforts to ensure that the military use of AI is responsible, transparent and based on international law.

In conclusion, Japan believes it imperative for all Member States to stand united to address the severe challenges we all face. Japan remains committed to continuing its contribution and stands ready to work with other Member States, international organizations and civil society to make progress in this important area.

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