



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

STATEMENT OF H.E. MR ICHIRO OGASAWARA
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE
OF THE 78th SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- THEMATIC DEBATE: CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS -
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Mr. Chair,

Today, the international community is in an even more precarious situation with disproportionate civilian casualties caused by the use of conventional weapons, requiring immediate action. To this end, it is necessary for all states to recall the spirit of the international frameworks of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation of conventional weapons and to ensure their robust implementation. In this regard, Japan welcomes the human centered approach in disarmament which is outlined in Action 7 of the New Agenda for Peace by the UN Secretary-General.

The need for universalization and effective implementation of relevant frameworks is more imminent than ever. In this respect, Japan extends its warm welcome to Andorra to the Arms Trade Treaty, and Nigeria and South Sudan to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). Taking this opportunity, Japan would like to encourage 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.

Mr. Chair,

Japan firmly believes that we should renew our commitment to prevent the illicit trade and diversion of small arms and light weapons. These weapons have a wide range of humanitarian and socio-economic impacts and remain the source of regional insecurity. Japan, together with Colombia and South Africa, has submitted a

draft resolution on “The Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.” The resolution has been adopted by consensus since 2001 and Japan sincerely hopes it will be adopted this year with broad support from the international community.

In this connection, Japan also welcomes the successful conclusion of the Open-Ended Working Group on conventional ammunition and its final report outlining a new global framework for through-life conventional ammunition management.

The year 2025 is an important milestone for all of us in achieving a mine-free world, Japan has decided to seek the Presidency of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) in 2025. In the 2022 fiscal year, our contribution to clearance of mines, cluster munitions and unexploded ordinance (UXO), surpassed 52 million US Dollars across 22 countries. Japan is a staunch supporter of the APMBC and CCM since its acceptance of these Conventions and remains committed to play an active role, making use of its expertise and experiences.

Mr. Chair,

In the current challenging security environment, Japan recognizes the increasing value of the CCW as a multilateral regulatory framework for conventional weapons and of international humanitarian law, whose principles are concretized in the CCW. The international community should advance various categories of discussions under the CCW.

Japan welcomes the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) this year and its substantial progress. It is meaningful that we have reached a consensus that LAWS must not be used if they are incapable of being used in compliance with the international humanitarian law. While this may involve some sensitivities, it is important to build on common recognition among stakeholders under the CCW framework. As a relevant initiative, Japan

welcomes a new draft resolution on LAWS led by Austria to give renewed impetus for the ongoing GGE. Japan believes that the GGE on LAWS will continue to be the most appropriate venue for international rule-making on LAWS. Japan will constructively participate in the discussions of the Group 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 and autonomy. AI and autonomy offer great opportunities for social and economic development. However, given the potential risks these technologies could pose, we should keep up with the veracity at which they are evolving in order to ensure that the military use of AI is responsible, transparent and based on the international law.

Last but not least, Japan also attaches great importance to transparency in the international transfer and retention of conventional arms, which serves to build confidence among states and contributes to international and regional peace, security and stability. In this regard, Japan would like to call on all states for the timely submission of the annual reports required by the UN Register of Conventional Weapons (UNROCA) and the UN Report on Military Expenditures (UNMiLEX) as well as the reports that are required under other relevant treaties.

To conclude, the international frameworks of conventional arms remain of primordial importance to enhance human security and to realize a safer world for all. Japan remains committed and stands ready to work with all relevant stakeholders to move things forward.