



DELEGATION OF JAPAN  
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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Statement delivered by Mr. Shigeru UMETSU,  
Deputy Permanent Representative of the  
Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament  
The Ninth Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty  
2<sup>nd</sup> Working Group and Preparatory Meetings  
Working Group on Transparency and Reporting  
Thursday 11 May 2023

Mr. Chair,

Japan attaches great importance to transparency in the international transfer of conventional arms. Reporting is a fundamental obligation, as outlined in Article 13 of the Treaty, and an important tool to realize a key objective of the ATT, which is to promote greater transparency and responsible action in the international arms trade. It also serves to build confidence among states and contribute to international and regional peace, security and stability.

Japan understands there are States Parties that face the administrative challenges in data collection and interagency coordination with the relevant domestic authorities. Japan encourages those States Parties to utilize the VTF framework, where appropriate, as a valuable tool for building national capacities.

In the case of Japan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) is responsible for submitting the report. From our experiences, in order to make reporting sustainable, keeping institutional memories of experience and knowledge related to reporting as well as human networks among relevant governmental agencies are very important in particular at the time of personnel changes.

Streamlining the internal administrative process on reporting is also an

important approach to reduce reporting burdens. In this regard, Japan welcomes synergies between the ATT and the UN Register of the Conventional Arms (UNROCA) report, and we are now considering how we can improve the efficiency of administrative work for reporting in the future, based on the compatibility between the ATT and UNROCA reporting formats.

I would also like to touch upon the issue of the establishment of an online searchable database. Given the current low rate of compliance on reporting and the low number of submissions through the online reporting tools, Japan is skeptical about the necessity and additional value of establishing a new database on ATT reports. It should also be noted that there are existing databases on conventional arms trade such as UNROCA.

We also need to consider the financial implications to the ATT budget by the establishment of the database system, which will incur operational costs and could affect the overall annual budget of the ATT. In view of the current low rate of submission and the ongoing financial situation of the ATT, it is not acceptable for Japan to have an increase in assessed contributions due to the new database. Japan believes that we should set a priority for encouraging the regular submission of annual reports and the use of online tools.

Lastly, Japan continues to submit its annual reports on time, and we are now preparing to submit our report through the online reporting tool. Japan would like to call on once again all parties to submit their initial and annual reporting.

Thank you.