



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement by H.E. Mr. Ichiro OGASAWARA
Ambassador of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
The Seventh Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
WGETI Sub-working group on Article 6 &7
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Japan would like to begin by expressing its sincere appreciation to Ambassador SÁNCHEZ DE LERÍN, facilitator of the sub-working group on Article 6 and 7, for your leadership for and dedication to this sub-working group's activities. Japan recognises the vital importance of the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation as a forum for discussion to promote and enhance the implementation of the ATT by each State Party.

Regarding the work of the sub-working group, we would like to thank the facilitator for sharing the results of the exercise involving the methodology template in the summary report on the key concepts in Article 6 and 7 of the Treaty. I would also express my deep appreciation to the facilitator for his painstaking efforts for drafting this important intellectual product. As it has expressed it on many occasions, Japan is of the view that care should be taken to avoid that the work of this body is construed as trying to establishing new norms. Because of this, we welcome the facilitator's clarification in his summary report that the report "doesn't provide recommendation or prescriptive definition of terms". We appreciate also the fact that facilitator's clarification reflects one of the principles enshrined in the Treaty Preamble; "the sovereign right of any State to regulate and control conventional arms exclusively".

As previously expressed, we are afraid that, while trying to unpack some of the key concepts of the Treaty, which are not defined in the Treaty itself, we would face inevitably issues of interpretation, which is not something that can be easily agreed on by consensus. We are equally afraid that a written interpretation of such key concepts may have serious legal implications on interpretation of the other Treaties. This can be said also to our work here. Japan is of the view that a careful consideration should continue to be given to the possible implications inadvertently arising from this endeavour to unpack these key concepts enshrined in the Treaty on other international legal instruments.

Japan appreciates today's opportunity to listen to the presentations provided by the two experts on the general interpretation of some of key concepts. Japan believes that it is meaningful for each state to benefit from the experts' viewpoints and advices to strengthen the implementation of the treaty in accordance with its proper domestic situation and law systems.

Lastly, I would like to thank you, Ambassador SÁNCHEZ the facilitator, for preparing and organising this very important session.