



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
Working Groups and Informal Preparatory Meeting

Thematic Discussion

“Strengthen efforts to eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and
ensure efficient stockpile management”

26 April 2021, Geneva Switzerland

Mr. President,

At the outset, Japan would like to express sincere appreciation for your efforts to make advancement of the process leading to the CSP7 despite the unprecedented circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Japan stands ready to work with all other delegations to achieve substantive progress towards CSP7, and I assure you, Mr. President, of my delegation’s full support and cooperation throughout the CSP7 cycle. I also appreciate your dedication to prepare and share with us your working paper of great value, which you have just introduced. I would also like to thank the ATT Secretariat for excellent preparatory works for this week’s meeting.

Mr. President,

Since the 1990’s, when the necessity of addressing the issue of Small Arms and Light Weapons was raised and initially discussed in the international fora, Japan has

actively and constantly engaged in this issue by submitting relevant UNGA resolutions and providing assistance to implement diverse projects focusing on the collection and disposal of SALW.

In 2020, Japan jointly submitted with Colombia and South Africa a draft resolution entitled “The Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects” to the UNGA, which was adopted by consensus last December. The resolution emphasizes the importance of eradicating illicit trade in SALW, including transfer to non-governmental groups, as well as of implementing the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects by each state.

Japan has contributed 2 million USD to “Saving Lives Entity (SALIENT)”, a UN funding facility outlined in the United Nations Secretary-General’s Agenda for Disarmament, to support enhancing and improving capacity for conventional arms control. We sincerely hope that “SALIENT” will contribute to facilitating international cooperation as a tool among Member States for preventing diversion of SALW.

Furthermore, Japan also supported actions on non-proliferation, collection and disposal of small arms during “the Africa Amnesty Month” under the initiative of “Silencing the Guns” by the African Union last year.

Mr. President,

Addressing the threats arising from the illicit trade and inadequate stockpile

management of SALW remains a pressing issue for the international community. In this respect, if States Parties agree on discussing these issues under the ATT framework during the CSP7 cycle, we need careful consideration on which areas or aspects of the SALW issues should be focused for further effective implementation of the Treaty.

The synergy between the UN Programme of Action and the ATT can be beneficial, but we should also be mindful to avoid any duplication with other international instruments, as well as any deviation from the norms already established by them. From this point of view, Japan expects fine tuning works and discussions be conducted in order to well frame our discussions on this item so that they could serve constructively the primary objectives of the ATT.

Lastly, Japan is looking forward to active discussions to make tangible progress during this week, and we are ready to contribute with all stakeholders towards a successful CSP7.