



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement by H.E. Mr. Ichiro OGASAWARA

Ambassador of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament and
the Head of Delegation of Japan to the Meeting of the Sixth Review
Conference of the High Contracting Parties to
the Convention on Prohibition or Restriction on the Use of Certain
Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively
Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects
13-17 December 2021, Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, on your assumption of the Presidency. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Mr. President,

The CCW Review Conference is a valuable opportunity for High Contracting Parties to take stock of the past five years' activities, and to further consider ways to strengthen the implementation of the Convention. Japan attaches great importance to the CCW as a multilateral regulatory framework on certain conventional weapons. We will continue to actively contribute to the universalization of the CCW, and to the development and implementation of international rules through this Convention.

Mr President,

The issues pertaining to the LAWS should be in the focus of this Conference. The rapid evolution of the emerging technology in the area of LAWS requires further consideration and clarification. Japan values the development of universal rules on LAWS under the framework of CCW.

The issues related to the LAWS are complex. Opinions and positions are still divided among the High Contracting Parties on many aspects and the gaps between them remain wide. Yet, the intensive deliberations conducted by the GGE during the review cycle have contributed significantly to fostering common understandings.

The Group has successfully produced many important achievements, including the 11 Guiding Principles, of which value should not be neglected.

The CCW is a major instrument of the international humanitarian law with potential to contribute to the disarmament of certain conventional weapons. The number of High Contracting Parties amounts to 125 with all key States in this area on board. As such, Japan believes that GGE continues to offer an appropriate framework for dealing with the issue related to emerging technologies in the area of LAWS. Further considerations and elaboration by the Group, building upon the recommendations and conclusions contained in its reports, is indispensable to foster further common understanding on LAWS, and to formulate rules that can achieve consensus.

We strongly hope that a new consensus will be reached at this Review Conference on the continuation of the work of GGE as well as substantive matters on the issue of LAWS. Japan will extend unwavering supports to the Presidency in his efforts of consensus buildings to this end.

Mr. President,

It is an honor for Japan to serve as the Presidency of the Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Amended Protocol II this year. The increased use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) by non-State actors has become a major concern. At the Conference on the 10th of December, High Contracting Parties to AP II reached a consensus on the text of the updated Declaration on IED. In my capacity of President of the Conference, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the IED coordinators, Col. Levant of France and Ms. Castillo Castro of Colombia, as well as to all delegations for their contribution to update the IED declaration. Japan hopes that this Review Conference will unanimously endorse the updated Declaration for the future work on IED.

Japan has been supporting international efforts for mine action and for related capacity building measures for many years. During the APII Conference, a presentation was made on a trilateral cooperation project

undertaken with mine action authorities of Cambodia and Colombia, and by Japan. Japan will continue to promote the implementation of APII in a holistic manner as well as that of related Conventions including Anti Personal Land Mine Convention and Convention on the cluster ammunitions.

Mr President,

Strengthening the financial basis of the Convention is crucial to ensuring its stable implementation. We look forward to constructive discussions to this end. We appreciate the leadership of the French Presidency in this regard. Japan urges all High Contracting Parties to fulfil its financial obligations in full.

I thank you, Mr President, for your kind attention.