



DELEGATION OF JAPAN  
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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Statement by Mr. Shigeru UMETSU  
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Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament

The Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty  
General Debate  
22 August 2022, Geneva

Mr. President,

At the outset, Japan would like to congratulate your Presidency, Ambassador Thomas GÖBEL, and express its sincere appreciation to Germany for the strong commitment and leadership in its preparation of the Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, and also express its sincere appreciation to the efforts of the Secretariat in convening this meeting. It has been three years since we last had a full-fledged in-person CSP, and we must celebrate this occasion today to be able to have direct, face-to-face discussions.

For the past 12 months, despite the persistence of pandemic, the ATT has made advances in its discourse and activities under the strong leadership of the President. Notably, a series of demarches was organized by the German Presidency in January to call for non-States Parties to join the Treaty. Japan is pleased to have been able to contribute to this important universalization effort.

Speaking of universalization, Japan would also like to take this opportunity to express again its sincere welcome to the Republic of the Philippines, which has become a member of the ATT since our last CSP. On this occasion, Japan would also like to encourage all the non-States Parties to accede or ratify the ATT at the earliest possible time.

Mr. President,

We are aware that you, as the Co-chair of the Working Group on Treaty

Universalization, are proposing further deliberations on the way forward of our universalization endeavor. Japan welcomes your initiative, and is ready to participate actively in the discussions on effective measures towards universalization.

We are also grateful for the President's initiative to set occasions, including this morning, to exchange views on post-shipment control, and for the working paper of the President, which shares best practices and other useful information on this subject with States Parties.

Another advancement we have made is the meeting of the Diversion Information Exchange Forum during this CSP8, to be held for the first time since its official establishment in the CSP6. I hope that the DIEF will serve as a good platform for information exchange among the States Parties and Signatory States, leading to enhancement of prevention of diversion cases.

Mr. President,

As pointed out during our preparatory meetings, the stringent financial condition of the Treaty concerns us. As healthy finance is a prerequisite for effective and efficient operation of any international treaty, Japan believes that it is high time for all the States Parties and Signatory States to seriously consider practical measures to help remove ourselves from this financial crisis.

In conclusion, Japan looks forward to constructive and useful discussions during the next five days. Please be assured, Mr. President, that Japan, as one of the Vice Presidents, will extend our utmost support to you and contribute to the discussions towards further advancement of the ATT.

Thank you, Mr. President.