



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement by Ambassador ICHIKAWA Tomiko
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The Tenth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
Special Session on the ATT 10th Anniversary Celebration
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Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

It is a great honour for Japan to speak in this special session celebrating the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The ATT has brought together aspirations for greater transparency in conventional arms transfers and the reduction of human suffering which is caused by the illicit trade and diversion of conventional arms. The Treaty was created as a powerful and meaningful instrument for states, civil society, and industry to better regulate the transfer of conventional arms.

I would like to pay special tribute to Ambassador Peter WOOLCOTT for his leadership and dedication as the President of the Final UN Conference on the ATT in 2013, and to all those who were tirelessly engaged in these challenging negotiations, including those from Japan.

Today, the ATT remains the only global legally binding instrument regulating the international trade in conventional arms, and it is even more relevant in the increasingly challenging international security context. I would like to highlight two key contributions of the ATT in the past decade.

First, Japan believes that the ATT has facilitated efforts by states to develop and implement national legislation and national control systems as well as to take measures to address diversion issues. The number of States Parties to the ATT, which was 61 when

the Treaty entered into force in December 2014, is expected to soon increase to 115, including Gambia and Malawi, which deposited their instruments this year. While more work remains to be done, this shows that increasing number of states share the objectives of the ATT and are committed to them.

Second, Japan highly values the role of the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) as a driving force for the implementation of the Treaty. The VTF has functioned effectively and has assisted states to enhance their national capacities through legislative assistance, institutional capacity building, as well as by providing technical, material, and financial support. Approximately 80 projects have been implemented both for States Parties and States not Parties to the ATT since the establishment of the VTF in 2016.

Japan was one of the co-authors of the UN General Assembly resolutions that launched the ATT process and has been a staunch supporter of the ATT ever since. In 2018, Japan hosted the Fourth Conference of States Parties (CSP4) in Tokyo as the first Presidency from the Asia-Pacific region. I would like to highlight Japan's contributions to the ATT process and its priorities, focusing on universalization and transparency.

First, Japan vigorously engaged in efforts to universalize the Treaty. Universalization of the ATT has been particularly challenging in the Asia-Pacific region. Ambassador Takamizawa, the President of CSP4, who was shown in the slides just now, conducted extensive outreach in Geneva, New York, and Tokyo to more than 50 states which were not yet party to the Treaty. Together with the ATT Secretariat, he also visited several Asian and African countries to hold consultations with high-level officials. It is encouraging to see that the number of States Parties has increased by more than 20 since the CSP4 cycle. We need to build on our predecessors' efforts and continue our work on further universalizing the Treaty.

Japan and Latvia, as Co-chairs of the Working Group of Treaty Universalization (WGTU) during the CSP5 cycle, with support from the Secretariat, also prepared two tools for universalisation, namely the "ATT Universalization Toolkit" and the "Welcome

Pack for new States Parties”. Today, thanks to the initiative of the Republic of Korea, both documents have been translated into 13 Asian languages and are available on the ATT website. I would like to encourage proactive use of these tools.

Second, Japan has promoted transparency in arms transfers and confidence-building among states through reporting. The robust and legally binding reporting mechanism of the ATT is instrumental in enhancing transparency on conventional arms transfers. Japan has long advocated for greater transparency in international arms transfers and is currently serving as Chair of the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting (WGTR).

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We are now at the critical juncture for the next decade of the ATT. Over the past decade, we have engaged in discussions to develop the operational mechanism of the ATT and to gain a better understanding of the Treaty. This has produced valuable tools and guidelines as voluntary reference documents to support effective implementation of the Treaty. Japan welcomes the decision at the CSP9 to shift the focus of the discussions in the ATT Working Groups to more practical aspects of implementation and challenges. I would like to underline the importance of these discussions in our work for the next decade. Japan remains committed to the ATT and looks forward to working together with all stakeholders, for the next 10 years and beyond. I thank you.