



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Opening Remarks by Ambassador OGASAWARA Ichiro
At the Joint Side Event of Annual Conference of the CCW APII
by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and Conflict Armament Research
Upstream IED Prevention
-- Countering the Illicit Proliferation and Diversion of Materials Used
in the Production of Improvised Explosive Devices --

Excellencies, Colleagues, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this side-event jointly organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and Conflict Armament Research, on the occasion of the 2021 Annual Conference of the CCW Amended Protocol II.

IEDs represent one of the primary ‘weapons of choice’ of illegal armed groups, terrorists and other illicit actors. The use of IEDs has affected over 50 countries and has resulted in thousands of casualties, both civilian and military. A wide spectrum of materials can be used in the manufacture of IEDs, including military and civilian commercial products, which pose a challenge to the ability of States to effectively regulate and control their proliferation and use.

The international community continues to address the threat of IEDs under various forums, including the United Nations General Assembly, the UN Security Council, and the meetings of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

However, owing to the evolving nature of material acquisition, IED production, as well as their means of delivery by illicit actors, great challenges remain for States to effectively prevent and deter IED proliferation and use. Challenges have been observed in the accurate identification of IED materials in various stages of material lifecycle, maintaining comprehensive and accessible records, as well as information sharing and coordination between different national and international stakeholders involved in tracing operations. Further, unique challenges have been observed in conflict-affected settings, where there may be lack of dedicated capacity and resources. In addition, emerging technologies and their applicability have represented both challenges and opportunities for countering the threat of IEDs. In this regard, at the Annual Conference of the CCW APII, which I am chairing today, the High Contracting Parties are considering the “Updated IED Declaration” to be submitted, if adopted, to the Sixth Review Conferences of High Contracting Parties to the CCW next week, with the aim of raising collective commitments to address the threat of IEDs

We are very pleased to be working with Conflict Armament Research, an organisation that supports States' efforts to identify and document materials that have been used to manufacture IEDs through field investigations in conflict-affected settings, and to help trace their sources and identify supply networks. The work of Conflict Armament Research extends beyond field research, to supporting States affected by conflict in building capacities to develop sustainable national identification, documentation and tracing capacity, as well as providing tailored advisory support to national export control authorities and arms control policy makers in order to bolster risk assessments pertaining to illicit flows of materials that can be used to fabricate IEDs.

Excellencies, we have gathered here together today because we recognize the value of the effective implementation of the CCW APII and other relevant multilateral frameworks that pertain to addressing the threat of IED. We seek to work jointly with all States, international and regional organizations, civil society and private sector actors to identify the pathway forward for strengthening preventative efforts against IEDs.

Today's side-event serves as an excellent platform for this objective. To this end, I wish thank Conflict Armament Research once again and all the panellists for their cooperation and support in convening this event, and I hope that today's discussion contributes to achieving concrete progress in this area.

I thank you.