



DELEGATION OF JAPAN  
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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Statement by H.E. Mr. Ichiro OGASAWARA  
Ambassador of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament  
The Seventh Conference of the State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

**Thematic Discussion**

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

**30 August 2021, Geneva, Switzerland**

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, for your assumption of this very important responsibility. Please be assured of the full support and cooperation of my delegation throughout your presidency. Japan would like to express its sincere appreciation for your leadership and considerable efforts since last year to hold this Conference of States Parties, and your dedication to prepare and update the working paper on small arms and light weapons and stockpile management.

The issues of small arms and light weapons remain critical and pose serious challenges to the world today. These issues are multi-faceted, and in particular, illicit transfers of SALW to unauthorized recipients and threats of terrorism and conflict should be addressed as a pressing issue.

Japan welcomed the adoption of the outcome document at the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States on UN Programme of Action for SALW in July this year in New York, and as a result, the international community renewed its commitment to implement practical and effective measures to address the issues pertaining to SALW at national, regional, and global levels.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Programme of Action, and Japan highly values the synergetic effects it has with the ATT. It is highly recommendable for ATT States Parties to seek synergetic effects between

those relevant frameworks, which will deepen our discussion on SALW related problems and create a positive impact on promoting the prevention of illicit trade and diversion of SALW.

Japan has engaged in discussions in this field since the 1990s, when the necessity of addressing the issue of SALW was raised and initially discussed within international fora. Japan has jointly submitted annual draft resolutions on small arms and light weapons to UNGA with Colombia and South Africa, and last December the most recent resolution was also adopted by consensus. I would like to thank all of the co-sponsoring and supporting countries of the resolution.

Japan has supported actions on non-proliferation, collection and disposal of small arms, through funding of "Saving Lives Entity (SALIENT)", a UN funding facility outlined in the UN Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament, and funding of the initiative of "Silencing the Guns" by the African Union during "the Africa Amnesty Month".

Furthermore, in June this year in collaboration with the Stimson Centre, Japan hosted an online seminar focusing on key challenges related to SALW. During the event, lively discussions were held among the distinguished panelists, including Ms. Izumi NAKAMITSU, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and an expert from Small Arms Survey. Exchanges also touched on the issues of human security, recent technological developments such as 3D printers, as well as gender impacts. These issues are closely related to the ATT.

In closing, Japan will continue to engage in the discussion and contribute to the prevention of the global illicit trade in SALW.

I thank you, Mr President.