



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Agenda 8

Consideration of international cooperation and assistance, including capacity-building, for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and including the proposals on the establishment of a dedicated fellowship training programme on small arms and light weapons as well as national, regional and global target-setting, where applicable.

Mr Chairman,

Japan attaches great importance to international cooperation and assistance to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument, particularly for preventing and eradicating the diversion and illicit transfer of Small Arms and Light Weapons to unauthorized recipients.

In connection with this, I would like to recall that the UN Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. António Guterres, committed to establishing the multi-partner trust facility for addressing the challenge of illicit small arms and armed violence in the most-affected countries, which is outlined in his “Agenda for Disarmament”. Japan highly appreciates the establishment of “The Saving-Lives Entity (SALIENT)” within the UN peacebuilding fund in 2019 following the Secretary General’s vision.

Japan has contributed 2 million USD to this important entity, and would like to urge the UN Secretariat and UNODA to start operations of initial programmes as soon as possible. We would also like to call upon UN Member States who have not yet contributed to the SALIENT, to support and to join this initiative, including through financial contributions, in order to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument.

Japan has conducted a variety of assistance programmes to address SALW

related problems. Recently, Japan contributed to the initiative for the collection and disposal of Small Arms and Light Weapons during the “Africa Amnesty Month” set up as one of the measures taken in support of African Union’s flagship initiative “Silencing the Guns”.

Moreover, Japan places great importance on national ownership and firm commitments by recipient countries as key elements to maximizing the effectiveness and sustainable impact of international assistance on various SALW challenges.

Mr Chairman,

It is also essential to making the most of our limited resources by avoiding duplication of works as well as gaps between provided assistances and needs. Japan believes that biennial national reports outlining the status of implementation and emerging challenges constitutes a useful tool to this end. In this regard, Japan would like to reiterate that it is highly recommendable for States in need of assistance to submit their reports of the Programme of Action, including a concrete description of their needs and gaps to share them with other member states.

Finally, I would like to stress that the existing UN Disarmament Fellowship Programme is an excellent scheme which Japan has been deeply engaged in since 1983. We believe that this programme can also provide opportunities to gain technical knowledge and expertise in areas related to the POA and ITI. In order to avoid duplication, Japan would like to suggest taking full advantage of existing schemes rather than establishing a new fellowship programme on SALW.

I thank you, Mr Chairman,