



DELEGATION OF JAPAN  
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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Agenda 6

Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, at the national level, the regional level, and the global level, including considerations to preventing and combating the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients.

Mr Chair,

At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you, Ambassador Martin KIMANI, on your assumption of the Chair of this meeting. Japan highly appreciates your tireless efforts for and dedication to the preparatory works for this meeting. Japan stands ready to work with all other delegations to achieve substantive progress, and I assure you of my Delegation's full support and cooperation throughout this week.

Mr Chair,

Since the 1990s, when the necessity of addressing this issue was raised and initially discussed within international fora, Japan has submitted annual draft resolutions on small arms and light weapons to UNGA, which paved the way to the adoption of the UN Programme of Action for SALW 2001.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Programme of Action and today, this instrument is one of the most critical global frameworks addressing the issues related to illicit trade of SALW at national, regional, and global levels. Considering the progress in this field during the last two decades, reaching the agreement on the Programme of Action among the UN member states has indisputable

significance in today's world.

However, the issues of SALW still pose serious challenges to the world today. As is described as “the weapons of choice in a great majority of recent conflicts” within the Report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council in 2002, the problems pertaining to SALW are multi-faceted, including illicit transfers of SALW to unauthorized recipients which are compounding threats of terrorism and conflict.

Japan continues to attach great importance to addressing these threats and has submitted the annual resolutions on SALW to the UN General Assembly together with Colombia and South Africa, the most recent of which was adopted by consensus in 2020. I would like to thank all of the co-sponsoring and supporting countries of the 2020 resolution. The resolution served to reaffirm our commitment to the fight against illicit trade in SALW, especially to the implementation of the UN Programme of Action.

Mr Chair,

Last month, in collaboration with the Stimson Centre, Japan hosted an online seminar titled “Renewing Commitments on Small Arms and Light Weapons Issue”. During the event, lively discussion and exchanges were conducted to address diverse issues on this subject. We were encouraged by active participation of distinguished panellists, including Ms Izumi NAKAMITSU, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, the representative of Kenya, on behalf of the Chair of the BMS 7, and an expert from Small Arms Survey. Discussions were centred around some key issues including human security, recent technological developments such as 3D

printers and gendered impacts.

The President of the Seventh Conference of States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty has proposed thematic discussion on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpile Management at the upcoming conference, which many States Parties have welcomed. Japan values the synergy between the Programme of Action and other relevant global frameworks on SALW and expects that synergetic effects will deepen our discussions and positively impact the practical implementation of the Programme of Action.

Mr Chair,

Lastly, Japan would like to call on all UN Member States to further intensify their efforts to preventing and eradicating the illicit trade and diversion of SALW through implementation of the Programme of Action and also to submit their biennial reports to ensure transparency. Japan sincerely hopes that our discussions within this meeting will contribute to enhancement of practical and effective measures to address the issues on SALW at the national, regional and global level.

I thank you, Mr Chair.