STATEMENT BY JAPAN
AT THE MEETING OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE 78th SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS -
31 OCTOBER, 2023 NEW YORK

Mr. Chair,
  Japan would like to take floor to introduce the resolution L 40, "the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects"

Since 2001, Japan, together with Colombia and South Africa, has submitted a draft resolution on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects every year and they have been adopted by consensus. The draft resolution this year has already received 86 co-sponsors. Japan would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Colombia and South Africa for their cooperation and to many States for their support as a co-sponsor.

Described as "de facto weapons of mass destruction", small arms and light weapons continue to proliferate and contribute to conflict prolongation and escalation, hindering the restoration of public security and post-conflict reconstruction and development. The prevention of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their diversion to unauthorized users remains a challenge that the international community must address together.

This draft resolution reaffirms the determination of the international community to continue and strengthen efforts through the implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI).

In 2024, the Fourth Review Conference on UNPoA, and its Preparatory Committee, will be held here in New York. This resolution sets the dates for these meetings and reaffirms the direction we should take together on small arms and light weapons issues.

Japan believes that the resolution will contribute to building momentum for the Review Conference next year and strongly hopes that this resolution will be adopted by consensus.

I thank you, Mr Chair,