

# Japan

DELEGATION OF JAPAN TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to  
The Convention on Prohibition or Restriction on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons  
Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW)  
(13 November 2014, Geneva)

Statement by JAPAN

Mr. President,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your assumption as President of the Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). We are confident that you will guide the work of this meeting to a successful conclusion, and assure you of my Delegation's full support and cooperation in your endeavors.

Mr. President,

Japan is dedicated to humanitarian conventional arms control, and remains firmly committed to the CCW and its protocols. Japan has long placed great value in the CCW as a legal framework that enables States Parties to effectively and practically address humanitarian concerns of certain conventional weapons without compromising their legitimate security needs.

Japan recognizes that the universalization of the CCW should be further promoted for the effectiveness and success of the Convention. We warmly welcome the new States Parties who have joined the Convention and its Protocols since the 2013 CCW meeting of High Contracting Parties. In promoting the Convention, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, Japan is determined to continue its efforts through bilateral and multilateral contacts. We urge those States not yet party to the CCW to consider ratifying or acceding to it in the near future.

Mr. President,

Japan recognizes the growing interests in the international community regarding the issues of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS), and commends the leadership of Ambassador Jean-Hugues Simon-Michel of France at the informal Meeting of Experts on LAWS in May this year, which turned out to be very fruitful and insightful. With the participation of so many experts from various parts of the world, from states and civil society; the meeting deepened our understanding on this issue through lively exchange of views.

While appreciating that the Meeting of Experts contributed to developing common understandings of various aspects of LAWS, we sense that questions to be addressed still remain. Therefore, we support the continuation of a discussion on this issue in the CCW in order to identify future tasks about basic elements related to those weapons.

With regard to Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM), while observing the various views on how to deal with the issues associated with these mines, we share the concern about the possible humanitarian impact caused by irresponsible and indiscriminate use of these mines.

Finally, Japan looks forward to the substantive discussions on topics both ongoing and emerging, thereby further strengthening the CCW and its Protocols.

Thank you, Mr. President.