

Statement by H.E. Mr. Toshio SANO  
Ambassador of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament  
The Second Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty  
22-26 August 2016, Geneva, Switzerland

The Honorable, Mr. Johann Schneider-Ammann,  
The Honorable, Mr. Mansur Dan-Ali,  
Excellency, Ambassador Emmanuel Imohe,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the President of the Conference for his tireless efforts and leadership, having led multiple preparatory processes in order to successfully hold this Second Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty. My appreciation also goes to Switzerland for its warm hospitality in hosting this important event. I would also like to highly commend all States Parties, Signatories, observer States, International and Regional Organizations, civil society, academia and industry for their collective and unwavering efforts and engagement in support of the Treaty.

Mr. President,

One year and eight months has already passed since the entry-into-force of the ATT. The number of States Parties to the Treaty has reached 87. This figure demonstrates the recognition in the international community of the noble purpose of the Treaty. Japan welcomes the fact that the ATT is firmly spreading out its roots.

However, challenges still remain. Japan sincerely hopes that discussions at this Conference will be active, and constructive in finding the best way to tackle these challenges. My delegation will make its utmost efforts to this end.

Mr. President,

I would like to briefly touch upon some major issues on the agenda of the Conference.

Firstly, we should continue our efforts for universalizing the Treaty. The number of States Parties is still less than half the member states of the United Nations. In order for the ATT to truly function as an international standard for improving the regulation of the international trade in conventional arms, early ratification by more countries is crucial. This Conference gives us a very important opportunity to promote our efforts toward universalization.

If we look at the Asia Pacific region for example, Japan remains one of several states to have joined this Treaty. That is the reason why I have, at every occasion, encouraged states not party to the Treaty to ratify. Japan has also taken every appropriate opportunity to discuss with Asia Pacific countries the significance of the ATT in order to encourage their prompt ratification. Japan will continue to strengthen such efforts by utilizing every possible resource for the universalization of the ATT, in particular, in the Asia Pacific region.

Secondly, reporting contributes to confidence building among states through the improvement of transparency of the global trade in conventional arms. It constitutes one of the essential pillars of the Treaty. I would like to encourage States Parties which have not yet done so to submit their reports as early as possible.

When considering the issue of reporting, we should also take into account other elements such as the important role played by conventional arms in national security and excessive burden on States Parties or the so-called “reporting fatigue.” We should avoid a situation where overly strict implementation creates barriers to the universalization of the Treaty. Japan hopes that the Conference will build on discussions by the working group regarding the content and status of the reporting template, and examine, in a balanced and flexible manner, the best way of reporting to ensure transparency in accordance with the Treaty.

Thirdly, international cooperation, to which Japan is committed, is a useful tool for the effective implementation of the Treaty. We actively participated in discussions on the voluntary trust fund facilitated by Germany. Japan hopes that the voluntary trust fund will contribute to increasing the number of States Parties by demonstrating its effective implementation.

Fourthly, sufficient support by the Secretariat is essential to ensure the effective

implementation of the Treaty. Japan hopes that under the leadership of the permanent Head of the Secretariat, who will be appointed at this Conference, the structure of the Secretariat will be further consolidated, including the recruiting of two staff positions already approved by the extraordinary meeting in February. Japan stands ready to provide the necessary assistance in order for the Secretariat to function adequately within its minimized structure.

Finally, Mr. President,

I would like to reiterate my delegation's full commitment to actively participate in the discussions and our utmost support for the work of the Conference.

I thank you, Mr. President.

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