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STATEMENT BY NOBUSHIGE TAKAMIZAWA  
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TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT  
AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 72<sup>ND</sup> SESSION  
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- THEMATIC DEBATE: CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS -  
18 OCTOBER 2017, NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman,

Japan welcomes the successful outcome of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of States Parties (CSP3) to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) held this September. In particular, Japan appreciates the decision by the Conference to establish the Working Groups on treaty implementation, transparency and reporting, and universalization, as standing working groups. They are the major vehicles to take the work forward for the CSP4. Now that Japan has assumed the Presidency of the CSP4 to be convened in August 2018, we are determined to pursue effective and robust implementation, as well as to promote transparency, confidence building, and universalization, while making best use of the three Working Groups. With respect to universalization, currently, less than fifty percent of the UN Member States have become parties to the ATT. As President of the CSP4, I am committed to promoting universalization and engaging with States not party to the Treaty. I am also mindful that the number of States Parties in the Asia-Pacific region remains low.

In this connection, Japan, this year, has submitted to this Committee a resolution on the ATT and I call on all Member States for their support.

Mr. Chairman,

Small arms and light weapons (SALW) in the wrong hands continue to inflict suffering upon humanity in various parts of the world. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Review Conference on the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PoA) to be convened in June next year will be yet another opportunity to redouble our efforts on this issue, building upon the outcome of the 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of States (BMS6) in 2016. Japan

will continue to work closely with other states and civil society to tackle the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

Furthermore, I call on all Member States to extend their support to the annual resolution on small arms and light weapons drafted by Colombia, South Africa, and Japan, so that it will be adopted again by consensus this year.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan appreciates the work of the Chilean Presidency on the success of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (15MSP) in November 2016, especially for their significant contribution to the costs of English, French and Spanish interpretation for the meeting. We would like to express our appreciation of the participation in the 15MSP of the Special Envoy for the Convention, His Royal Highness, Prince Mired of Jordan. Japan attaches importance to mine action programmes and has donated approximately 710 million US Dollars in 51 countries and regions since 1998. Japan will collaborate with States Parties to achieve the objectives set out in the Maputo Action Plan and to meet the completion of the Declaration's aspiration by 2025.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan welcomes the successful outcome of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties (7MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in September. We attach particular importance to universalisation of the Treaty as well as international cooperation and assistance. In that sense, we welcome Germany's initiatives in their capacity as the President of the 7MSP on universalization, including military to military dialogue.

Mr. Chairman,

We recognize the growing interest in the international community regarding the issue of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS). Since the 1<sup>st</sup> informal expert meeting in 2013, there have been some positive results on this issue, but there are still many technological, military, legal, and ethical questions to consider. In this regard, we welcome the decision of the 5<sup>th</sup> CCW Review Conference to convene the open-ended Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS in 2017. Despite the cancellation of the LAWS GGE scheduled in August, which is regrettable, we have to intensify the

discussions and address some of the challenges at the GGE in November in order to achieve substantial progress.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on the UN Report on Military Expenditures met this year to review the operation and further development of this mechanism. Japan believes this reporting mechanism is conducive to building trust and confidence among Member States, and therefore actively engaged in the GGE discussions on how to broaden participation. Japan would like to draw the attention of Member States to the report of this GGE, in particular its recommendations, and call on Member States that have not yet done so to utilize this mechanism.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman,

I would like to refer to the current financial challenges. Since last year, the Geneva-based disarmament conventions have faced a troublesome situation as the UN changes its financial procedures, and as debt continues to mount from a small number of States who continue not to pay their assessed contributions year after year. We are deeply concerned about the financial status of such disarmament conventions. It is with regret that not only the LAWS GGE scheduled for August was canceled, but the 16MSP of the Ottawa Convention will be shortened due to a lack of funding. This situation puts at risk the functioning and the future of implementation of the conventions. Furthermore, the financial situation of the ATT is also a matter of concern. We therefore call upon all States who have not yet paid their contributions to do so in a timely manner.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.