

**STATEMENT BY NOBUSHIGE TAKAMIZAWA
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 74th SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

THEMATIC DEBATE CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

OCTOBER 24, 2019

Disarmament Agenda

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to begin by reiterating Japan's support for the UN Secretary General's Agenda for Disarmament which emphasizes the urgent need to address the excessive accumulation and illicit trade in conventional arms. To respond to this issue, the Government of Japan contributed 2 million US dollars to the Saving Lives Entity Fund earlier this year¹.

In August, Prime Minister Abe announced to promote "New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa", NAPSA, during the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development. NAPSA aims to support Africa's own initiatives and address root causes hindering peace and stability in Africa. Japan's approach includes our assistance for institution building and small arms control, and they are in line with AU's Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020. We will continue to partner with the UN and regional organizations, among others.

Small Arms and Light Weapons

Mr. Chairman,

It is necessary to enhance international cooperation in order to tackle issues related to the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. I would like to thank the co-sponsors of our annual "Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects" resolution submitted by Columbia in collaboration with Japan and South Africa, and invites others

¹ UN Disarmament Agenda Action 20 "Establish a dedicated trust fund on small arms" for which Japan is a Supporter.

who have not joined the resolution to do so. Japan welcomes the nomination of the Republic of Kenya as President of BMS7 of the UNPOA.

UNROCA GGE

Mr. Chairman,

Japan attaches great importance to the UNROCA, which covers over 90 per cent of all international transfers of conventional arms. We welcome the recommendation of the 2019 UN GGE on the UNROCA that Member States in a position to do so provide information on exports and imports of small arms and light weapons, as appropriate. Japan also welcomes the agreement of a definition of small arms and light weapons agreed upon at the GGE and commends Ms. Fogante of Argentina for her able leadership as Chair of the GGE. During the ATT intersessional meeting, Japan, together with the Netherlands, proposed to simplify the reporting process under the ATT and the UNROCA by submitting a single report. We look forward to further discussion in the ATT framework.

Arms Trade Treaty

Mr. Chairman,

Japan welcomes the Maldives as the 105th State Party to the ATT. We are ready to work with Argentina, the President of CSP6, to prevent diversion through enhancing transparency and information sharing. As a member of both the Management Committee and the Voluntary Trust Fund Selection Committee, we will actively engage in discussions on matters agreed during CSP5 and monitor the VTF selection process.

LAWS

Mr. Chairman,

Japan welcomes the adoption by consensus of the 11 guiding principles at the LAWS GGE and the decision to continue the discussion and to work on recommendations towards 2021 Review Conference. Future efforts must build on existing achievements. In this context, Japan attaches importance to the development and elaboration of guiding principles, in particular, the principle related to human-machine interaction. We need to identify and examine a range of factors in determining the quality and extent of human-machine interaction.

Anti-Personal Mine Ban Convention

Mr. Chairman,

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Anti-Personal Mine Ban Convention, but more work remains in order to realize a mine free world by 2025. Japan is working closely with Norway, the Presidency of the Fourth Review Conference to ensure the success of the conference next month, particularly in our priority areas: innovation of mine clearance methodology to increase speed and efficiency; comprehensive victim assistance; awareness raising on mine action and victim assistance on the margins of international events; inclusion of IEDs to “thematic Action Areas”; demonstration of national ownership; and reference to the SDGs.

Cluster Munitions

Mr. Chairman,

As a State Party to the CCM, Japan recognizes the significant humanitarian consequences of cluster munitions. Since 1998, Japan has contributed more than 806 million US dollars to mine action and UXO-related projects, in 51 states and regions. I would like to conclude by expressing Japan’s commitment to work with Switzerland, the Presidency of the Second Review Conference to be held next year.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.