

DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

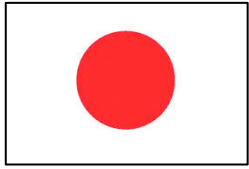
**Statement delivered by Ms KADO Aiko,
First Secretary, Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
at the Twelfth Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty,
Informal Preparatory Meeting
Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF)
27 May 2026, Geneva, Switzerland**

President,
Excellency Ambassador Göbel,
ATT Secretariat,
Esteemed Delegates,

At the outset, allow me to extend my sincere appreciation to Ms Tsheole, President of the Twelfth Conference of the States Parties to the ATT, and to your Excellency, Ambassador Göbel, Chair of the Voluntary Trust Fund Selection Committee for your leadership, and the ATT Secretariat for their dedication to the successful implementation of the projects.

Japan greatly values the importance of the Voluntary Trust Fund under Article 16 of the Arms Trade Treaty. Japan recognises that the Fund has made a significant contribution to strengthening the implementation capacity of States Parties and considers it essential to continue ensuring its effective and efficient operation.

As a member of the VTF Selection Committee, Japan understands and supports the proposed revision of the Terms of Reference from the perspective of promoting effective implementation in the light of the object and purpose of the Treaty.



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

However, regarding the requirement for “clear and unambiguous political commitment” which has now been added as a condition for the support for signatory States and non-States Parties, Japan considers that, from the perspective of ensuring the transparency and consistency of the VTF’s operation, it is necessary to confirm a clear commitment, including the “political will to join the ATT”. Japan believes it is important to discuss this thoroughly during the implementation phase, in forums such as the VTF Selection Committee.

Japan reiterates its commitment to continue contributing constructively to the discussions and look forward to collaborating with the Chair of the Twelfth Conference of the States Parties and the Chair of the VTF Selection Committee.

Thank you.

[END]