

STATEMENT OF JAPAN
AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE
OF THE 77th SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
- THEMATIC DEBATE: CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS -
OCTOBER 2022, NEW YORK

Mr. Chair,

As we all know far too well, the world witnessed countless military attacks and violent incidents in the past 12 months, causing numerous civilian deaths, massive displacement and separation of families. The source of these tragedies were conventional arms, regardless the types of weapons, used in actual warfare. The need for universalization and implementation is more imminent than ever. I would like to emphasize the importance of implementation of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation of conventional weapons and reiterate the pressing need for universalization of the relevant treaties.

In this respect, Japan extends its warm welcome to the Philippines and Gabon to the Arms Trade Treaty, and Malawi to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Japan would like to take this opportunity to encourage all the Member States to join, if they have not yet done so, and

implement the legal instruments on conventional arms control and disarmament.

Mr. Chair,

It is also with that sense of urgency that Japan, as Chair of the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance Committee of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, is promoting international cooperation for mine action. Japan also nationally supports actions against mines, cluster munitions and unexploded ordinance (UXO), and the collection and disposal of small arms and light weapons around the world. In 2021, our contribution across those areas surpassed 41 million US Dollars.

Mr. Chair,

Once again, this year, Japan, alongside Colombia and South Africa, has submitted to the First Committee a draft resolution on “The Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,” which was drawn from the successful outcome of the BMS8 of the Programme of Action this year. Japan hopes that a consensus adoption of this resolution will demonstrate our united determination to tackle this problem. Japan also welcomes the inception of the Open-Ended Working Group on conventional ammunition this year, and is ready to contribute further to its deliberation.

Mr. Chair,

Japan highly values the CCW as a multilateral regulatory framework for conventional weapons and of International Humanitarian Law, and welcomes the outcome of its Sixth Review Conference in December last year as well as the adoption of the updated Declaration on Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) at the Twenty-third Annual Conference of the CCW APII which Japan had the honor to chair. We support the resolution on IED submitted by France and Australia.

Japan also commends the efforts made to strengthen its financial basis for ensuring stable implementation of the Convention. In the current harsh security environment, Japan recognizes the increasing value of the CCW as a multilateral regulatory framework for conventional weapons and of International Humanitarian Law, which is the basis of the Convention. Thus, Japan believes that the international community should advance various categories of discussions under the CCW.

Japan recognizes the meaningful results achieved by the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) in the discussion on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) in the past years, as one of the key topics under the CCW. Despite the sensitivity and complexity of this issue, intensive deliberations at the GGE meetings have significantly contributed to fostering bases for common understanding. Japan believes it

beneficial for the High Contracting Parties to continue the discussion on LAWS step-by-step within the CCW framework. Japan also welcomes many proposals submitted to the GGE this year to advance such discussion. Japan will continue to actively contribute to international rule-making.

Lastly, Japan supports the Political Declaration on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas and looks forward to the endorsement of the Declaration in Dublin in November.

In conclusion, Japan believes it imperative for all Member States to stand united to address the severe challenges we all face. Please be assured, Mr. Chair that Japan remains committed to continuing its contribution and stands ready to work with other Member States, international organizations and civil society to move things forward.

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