DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement by ICHIKAWA Tomiko
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
At the First Committee of the 81st Session of the General Assembly
THEMATIC DISCUSSION: CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS -
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Chair,

Japan is deeply concerned about the deteriorating international security situation resulting in civilian casualties caused by the use of conventional weapons. Japan calls upon all states parties to the relevant international instruments to renew their commitments, and encourages states that have not yet done so to accede to them.

Urgent action is required to address illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Japan emphasises the central role of the Programme of Action and welcomes the successful conclusion of BMS9 and the OETEG. Together with Colombia and South Africa, Japan has submitted a draft resolution on “The Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects” demonstrating the international community’s collective determination to address this issue, and strongly hopes for its adoption by consensus.

Japan commends Zambia’s leadership as this year’s President of the APMBC. Together with Zambia and Belgium, Japan has introduced a draft resolution on the Convention and request the strong support of all delegations. Japan continues to support affected countries and regions with an emphasis on strengthening national ownership.

Japan welcomes the successful conclusion of the Third Review Conference of the CCM and commends the Lao People’s Democratic Republic for its leadership. We urge all States Parties to implement the Vientiane Capital Action Plan.

Japan welcomes the adoption of the substantive report by consensus of the GGE on LAWS under the CCW, reflecting the discussions over the past three years, under the able chairmanship of Ambassador Robert in den Bosch of the Netherlands. Japan strongly supports the continued consideration of this issue under the CCW and will participate constructively in the upcoming Review Conference. Japan also sees a pressing need to advance discussions on the responsible use of artificial intelligence in the military domain, based on international law.

To conclude, Japan remains committed to safeguarding human security and mitigating the humanitarian suffering stemming from conventional weapons, and stands ready to work with all stakeholders within the relevant frameworks.

Thank you.

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