



**Statement of Japan
at the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States
to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent,
Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light
Weapons in All Its Aspects
29 June 2022**

**Agenda item 8: Consideration of the implementation of the International
Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trade, in a Timely and
Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.**

Madam Chair,

Thank you very much for giving me the floor. Please allow me to congratulate you for your assumption of chairpersonship for this important meeting.

Madam Chair

Japan values effective and sustainable international cooperation and assistance, which can largely promote the PoA and ITI, in particular in prevention and eradication of diversion and illicit transfer to unauthorized recipients.

Indeed, it is for this same reason that Secretary General Guterres committed to the establishment of a dedicated fund for small arms and light weapons in his Disarmament Agenda, which successfully led to the establishment of the Saving-Lives Entity, or SALIENT. Japan contributed 2 million US dollars to SALIENT in 2019, and as a donor looks forward to receiving reports from the UN on progress and execution in a timely manner.

Japan would like to take this opportunity to call on other Member States that are in a position to do so, to contribute to this important joint fund to address our common cause and help to enhance implementation of the PoA and ITI.

Madam Chair,

The international community already possesses a dedicated assistance mechanism

for small arms and light weapons, which was initiated based on the Secretary General's commitment. It is, therefore, our responsibility and first priority to seriously consider effective utilization of this existing mechanism. Discussing any new assistance mechanisms should come next. The urgent issues of small arms and light weapons can be readily addressed through the existing mechanisms, much more quickly than through the creation of new mechanisms.

In this respect, Japan would like to reiterate the following two interrelated points:

- First, Japan believes that the international community should take a careful approach in considering a new assistance framework. Thus, we would like to emphasize the importance of sufficient explanation to be given as to any new initiative to be included in the final document. From this point of views, we appreciate the presentation just made by the Secretariat on the proposal for a dedicated fellowship-training programme on small arms and light weapons. We will report the presentation to Tokyo for its consideration and if there is any feedback, we will share it through this meeting with the relevant stakeholders.
- Second, Japan once again would like to emphasize that ensuring accountability of recipient states, implementing agencies and organizations that manage funds is vital. Without accountability, continuation or new commitment of international assistance would be difficult. This notion should be reflected somehow in the outcome document.

Madam Chair,

Finally, Japan would like to take this opportunity to reassure its commitment to align with other Member States in our joint endeavor to address the pressing issue of small arms and light weapons.

I thank you, Madam Chair.