



General Statement by the Government of Japan
The Seventh Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
August 30-September 3, 2021

Mr. President,

Japan would like to express its gratitude to you, Mr. President, and to the Secretariat for the efforts to organize the Seventh Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty. The CSP7 cycle has been unprecedentedly challenging one as we had to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the year. Yet, we were able to conduct successful discussions in a fully online format in the preparatory meeting in April, and are now meeting at the CSP either in person or online. Japan recognizes that this is all thanks to the strong leadership of Mr. President and the reliable and tireless work of the team at the Secretariat.

Mr. President,

The theme of this year's Conference, "Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpile Management", is a significant subject across the world today, with the mounting problems we all face, including illicit transfer of SALW to unauthorized recipients and the threat of terrorist attacks and conflicts. We appreciate your Working Paper, Mr. President, which sheds light on this timely issue from an ATT angle.

Japan welcomes the renewed commitment of the international community to addressing the issue of SALW in the Seventh Biannual Meeting of States (BMS7) of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PoA) in July. We hope that synergies between the ATT and PoA, which stands at the milestone of its 20-year anniversary, will help accelerate the global efforts against illicit trade and diversion of SALW.

Japan has long been contributing to the international community in tackling the SALW issue. Together with Colombia and South Africa, Japan has been submitting the resolution against illicit trade of SALW to the UN General Assembly every year, getting approval through consensus. We also support

measures on the ground, having contributed to, among others, the Saving Lives Entity, or SALIENT, established in a commitment made by U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres in his Agenda for Disarmament, and the Amnesty Month of the African Union's Silencing the Guns initiative. We also co-organized an online seminar to enhance the discussion on SALW in June this year, and are committed to its continued contribution to tackling the SALW issues.

Mr. President,

Japan commends the Chairs of the Working Groups and the Facilitators of the Sub-Working Groups for their efforts to date in leading and consolidating our discussions. Having served as the Co-Chair of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization during the CSP4 and CSP5 cycles, Japan places great importance on the universalization of the ATT, especially universalization in the Asia-Pacific region. In June this year, we co-hosted the Asia-Pacific Universalization Roundtable for the third time, together with Australia, New Zealand and Control Arms. We also have been taking the opportunity of bilateral dialogues to call for ratification or accession to the ATT, and would like to take this opportunity to express our commitment to our continuous contribution to the universalization of the Treaty. On this occasion, Japan would like to encourage all non-States Parties, including signatory States and observer States, to join the Treaty as soon as possible.

We also call on all the States Parties to fulfill their treaty obligations to submit their initial and annual reports, as transparency is key to confidence building among states, leading to international and regional peace, security and stability.

Japan also appreciates the significance of the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation, a forum to discuss the promotion and reinforcement of treaty implementation. We hope that the work of the Group will make the efforts for treaty implementation easier for States Parties, especially the states that are new to the community and still in the early stages of trade regulation. Ever since the establishment of the Voluntary Trust Fund, a mechanism supporting treaty implementation, Japan has served as a member of its Selection Committee. We expect that support through the Fund will help to establish national control systems, leading to advancement of treaty implementation.

Mr. President,

As a member of the Management Committee, Japan has served to maintain and improve the operation of the treaty body. Based on that experience, we would like to point out that, in order to reinforce and ensure stable and effective functioning of the Secretariat, each and every state needs to pay its assessed contribution in a timely manner. Again, states are urged to fulfill their financial obligation.

In conclusion, please be assured, Mr. President, that Japan is committed to continue its contribution to promoting implementation, transparency and universalization of the ATT, as well as addressing the issues around SALW, towards global and regional peace, security and stability.

Thank you, Mr. President.