

Statement delivered by Mr. FUKUOKA Akifumi, Deputy Director, Conventional Arms Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tokyo

The Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty Financial contribution (Agenda item 11) 24 August 2023, Geneva

Madame President,

Japan would like to share its appreciation for the Secretariat for its dedication to the work in the administration of the Treaty, particularly in managing the various programs and organizing meetings. Japan would also like to thank Switzerland for its generous support to help the Secretariat.

Japan highly values the Secretariat's efforts to reduce expenses and the budget estimates for the Conference in 2024 being maintained at the same level as last year. We support the proposed budget estimate for 2024.

On this occasion, we would like to share Japan's basic position on the budgets of all international organizations, which is zero nominal growth, and where savings can be made, further savings are desirable.

Japan expresses deep concern at the current financial situation and the status of non-compliance on financial obligations by states parties. We would like to reiterate the importance of the timely payment of assessed contributions. It is necessary to maintain and strengthen the stable and effective functioning of the Secretariat and Treaty body as well as to promote the implementation of the ATT. In this regard, Japan strongly urge States Parties that are in arrears to promptly pay their assessed contributions. In accordance with the Treaty Financial Rules, States Parties must comply with their financial obligations and pay their contributions. We also encourage states in arrears to consider taking advantage of the financial guidelines adopted by CSP7. We believe it would help states facing financial challenges to find possible solutions through consultations on future repayment plans.

Thank you, Madame President.