

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

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Madame facilitator,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on assuming the role of facilitator of the new Sub-Working Group on current and emerging implementation issues and thank you for your preparation on guiding our work. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Argentina for the initiative and presentation, as well as Mexico, Spain and the Small Arms Survey.

Japan attaches great importance to the discussion on the risk of conventional arms being used for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and its prevention. Promoting the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda is one of the priorities of the government of Japan. The Third WPS Action Plan formulated and announced by Japan in April 2023 includes two of the main pillars, namely "promoting women's participation and gender-oriented peacebuilding" and "addressing and preventing sexual and gender-based violence". These pillars suggest to "promote women's participation and incorporate gender perspectives in developing and conducting small arms and light weapons countermeasures, disarmament, and non-proliferation efforts" as one of the concrete actions.

In order to promote the WPS Action Plan, it is necessary for relevant ministries, agencies and organizations in Japan to make cross-cutting efforts. Japan would also like to actively participate in the discussions on gender issues under the ATT.