

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 Treaty Implementation, 22 August 2023, Geneva

Mr. Chair,

Japan would like to share its appreciation for the efforts and dedication of Ambassador SANCHEZ DE LERIN to the work of this working group.

Japan supports the holistic approach in the agenda and mandate of the WGETI with more focus on practical challenges and best practices in national implementation as well as the discussion on priority issues and measures to support enhanced implementation. Japan believes that this approach can also help to identify needs of international cooperation and assistance. While Japan is flexible on how the WGETI should coordinate with the other working groups, cooperation and assistance, including the proactive use of VTF, is one of the topics relevant to all the working groups.

Please allow me to briefly introduce Japan's security export control system. Japan strictly controls the import and export of arms in accordance with the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, the Export Trade Control Order as well as the Customs Act. The Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) is the main agency in Japan for the implementation of the ATT. In the practical operation of the import and export of arms, the import and export of regulated goods and the provision of technology are subject to approval by METI.

For example, in case of the export of weapons, the List Regulation and the

Catch-all Regulation require exporters to make declarations to the METI, and the exporters must always follow the updated export procedures to observe the regulations. METI is therefore in a position to supervise the exporters.

Japan would like to further strengthen the internal cooperation among relevant national authorities of arms trade, realizing further involvement of those national bodies in the ATT discussions on each specific topic. Thus, Japan can share our national systems and practices more concretely at future WGETI meetings.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.