



The Seventh Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
Statement by Japan

Treaty Implementation
31 August 2021, Geneva Switzerland

Japan would like to begin by expressing its sincere appreciation to the Chair of the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation and all facilitators of the sub-Working Groups for your leadership. We also appreciate Ambassador Villegas for your dedication and efforts to finalise the Working Paper on Transparency and Exchange of Information through extensive informal consultations throughout the CSP7 cycle. Japan is happy with the language on the final version of the Working Paper by Argentina and we also support the Annex A of the Chair's Draft Report on the elements of a process for addressing the risk of diversion.

Japan recognises the vital importance of the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation as a forum for discussion to promote and enhance the implementation of the ATT. We welcome the clarification in the Chairs Draft report on the purpose of the methodology exercise conducted under the sub-working Group on Article 6 and 7, stating that it and I quote “it was to promote the exchange of national practices, and was not intended to prescribe, create new norms and standards or establish an agreement on a single interpretation of key concepts”.

We also appreciate the opportunity to listen to the views of legal experts on general interpretations of some of the key concepts in the April meeting. It is

important for each state to benefit from their expertise and advice to enhance the implementation of the ATT in accordance with their domestic situation and law systems.

Mr. Chair,

As previously expressed, Japan believes that we should be cautious of any efforts that could risk establishing new norms and possible implications on the interpretation of the other international legal instruments. When we consider and unpack the key concepts which are not defined in the Treaty, it is inevitable to face the issues of interpretation, which would not be something that can be easily agreed on by consensus, and in particular, written interpretations may have serious legal implications on other frameworks.

With these issues in mind, Japan believes that we should take a cautious approach when we continue discussions next year on a list of possible draft elements for Chapter 1, Key Concepts of the proposed Voluntary Guide for assisting the implementation of Article 6 and 7, and careful consideration should be given in our future work.

I thank you,