

Statement by H.E. Mr. Nobushige TAKAMIZAWA
Ambassador of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
The Third Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
- General Debate -
11 September 2017, Geneva

Thank you, Mr. President.

At the outset, I thank you for your excellent leadership and the Secretariat for its hard work in all aspects of the ATT CSP3 process.

The Arms Trade Treaty is aimed at establishing the highest possible common international standards for regulating the international trade in conventional arms. It also supports efforts in preventing and eradicating the illicit trade in conventional arms and their diversion. This object, and therefore the ATT, is becoming increasingly relevant as we continue to witness the proliferation of conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons, and the threat of conflicts, terrorism, and human suffering in many regions of the world. Accordingly, the ATT remains an instrumental and relevant tool.

Mr. President,

In CSP2 last year, we made important decisions to establish Working Groups on treaty implementation, universalization, and transparency and reporting to advance substantive discussions. I would like to commend the Co-Chairs of the three Working Groups for their leadership and the Secretariat for their support, without which rich discussions over the past year would not have been possible. I would like to express Japan's support for the continuation of the Working Groups, which would be necessary to maintain the momentum we had over the past year and enhance our work in the next CSP cycle. I believe the Working Groups are an effective forum as we can tackle issues in detail and in a more interactive and integrative manner. Japan will continue to actively contribute to the work and expect participation from many states from different regions, including Asia-Pacific, to bring more diversity, which the ATT is designed and supposed to embrace.

Mr. President,

The number of States Parties to the ATT now exceeds ninety (90), and there are over forty (40) Signatory States that are not yet party to the Treaty. This represents an expectation of the international community for the Treaty to be an invaluable instrument for the regulation of the international trade in

conventional arms and, as a consequence, to reduce human suffering and contribute to SDGs. Nevertheless, we still need to promote universalization of the Treaty by enhancing dialogue and capacity building efforts with Signatories and Non-States Parties with a view to building, in the long run, a network of ATT States Parties and ATT communities that covers every corner of the world in order to give true effect to the regulation of the international trade in conventional arms.

Mr. President,

The reporting mechanism is one of the advantages of the ATT. I would like to stress that reporting is mandatory while retaining some flexibility in format. Reports bring transparency and information sharing, thereby, helping to build confidence among States Parties. Japan urges all States Parties that have not yet done so to submit their initial and annual reports.

Mr. President,

With regard to the Voluntary Trust Fund, I would like to welcome the substantial amount of financial contributions made by a number of states in the first cycle of its operation. Japan is a member of the Selection Committee and has actively participated in it. The VTF is an important tool to ensure effective implementation of the Treaty. Japan believes that experiences and lessons learned on the part of donors, recipients and the Selection Committee during the first cycle should be duly reflected upon with a view to ensuring the effective operation of the VTF in terms of both substance and procedure.

Lastly, Mr. President,

The Government of Japan has nominated me as a candidate for the Presidency of CSP4 in 2018. Japan has been a keen proponent of the ATT since the process started in 2006 and we attach great importance to its further strengthening modestly and ambitiously under increasingly complicated situations.

I would like to announce that Japan is seriously considering hosting the CSP4 in Japan as part of preparation for my successful election as President. In full cooperation with the ATT community, including the Geneva based infrastructure, we have started domestic procedures to that end and I will inform you of the conclusion as soon as possible.

I thank you, Mr. President.

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