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STATEMENT BY TOSHIO SANO
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TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 70TH SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- THEMATIC DEBATE: CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS -
26 OCTOBER 2015, NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to begin my statement by congratulating the Mexican Presidency on a successful outcome of the 1st Conference of States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) held in August this year. It is major progress that basic frameworks for the implementation of the Treaty, such as the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules, were agreed upon in that Conference. I would like to commend the able guidance and strong leadership of the Mexican Presidency, especially those of Ambassador Lomónaco. I would also like to welcome the establishment of the Management Committee, whose role will be particularly important until the ATT Secretariat will become functional.

Administrative arrangement of the ATT Secretariat and reporting mechanism remain central issues to be addressed further. The administrative arrangement should comprise of a small Secretariat that will efficiently carry out the responsibilities based on the Treaty. It is essential that we agree on this arrangement at the extraordinary session of the Conference of States Parties, to be held in early 2016, in order to promptly put the implementation of the Treaty on track. Japan believes that a reporting mechanism is conducive to ensuring transparency, and expects that further discussions will be explored next year at the 2nd Conference of States Parties.

Moreover, universalisation of the Treaty is an important challenge, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. Japan will work towards a wider adherence to the Treaty in cooperation with other states and civil society. In this regard, international cooperation

should be strengthened for states in need in order to facilitate their capacity building efforts in implementing the Treaty obligations.

Mr. Chairman,

With respect to small arms and light weapons, Japan appreciates the useful discussions that took place at the 2nd Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts (MGE2) in June this year, concerning the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA), including the implications of recent developments in manufacturing, technology and design for effective marking, record-keeping and tracing. I commend the Chair of that Meeting, Ambassador Vlad Lupan of Moldova, for his stewardship. I would like to note that the outcome document of the 5th Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the PoA (BMS5), held last year, gives emphasis to the enhancement of stockpile management, international cooperation and assistance, and the role of women. It also includes various measures as a “Way Forward.” Japan is dedicated to working closely with other states and civil society on these important issues.

In this connection, I call on all Member States to extend their support to the annual resolution on small arms and light weapons drafted by Colombia, Japan, and South Africa, so that it will be adopted again by consensus.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan attaches importance to mine action programmes and has donated approximately 622 million US Dollars in 50 countries and regions since 1998. Japan will continue its support with an emphasis on the clearance of unexploded ordinance, risk reduction education, and especially the role of women.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan welcomes the success of the 1st Review Conference of the Cluster Munitions Convention (CCM) in Dubrovnik in September, as evidenced in the adoption of the outcome documents, in particular the Dubrovnik Action Plan. It is important to implement this Action Plan steadily in the next 5 years. Japan attaches particular importance to universalisation of the Treaty and international cooperation and assistance.

Finally, Mr. Chairman,

Japan recognizes the growing interests in the international community regarding the issue of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS), and commends the leadership of Germany in the 2nd informal Meeting of Experts which deepened our understanding on this issue through an interactive exchange of views. However, regarding the main elements, like the definition of LAWS, we need to deepen our understanding through discussion. Therefore, Japan supports the further discussion for the forthcoming 5th CCW Review Conference in 2016.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.