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STATEMENT BY TOSHIO SANO
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TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 71ST SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- THEMATIC DEBATE: CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS -
20 OCTOBER 2016, NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman,

It has been nearly two years since the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) came into force. The number of States Parties to the Treaty has reached 87, which demonstrates the international community's recognition of its noble purpose. Japan welcomes the fact that the ATT is firmly spreading its roots, however, universalisation of the Treaty is still a 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. Having successfully concluded the 2nd Conference of States Parties in August, thanks to the Presidency of Ambassador Emmanuel Imohe of Nigeria, we should now focus on effective implementation of the Treaty. Sufficient support by the Secretariat will be essential, and international cooperation should be strengthened for states in need in order to facilitate their capacity building efforts in implementing the Treaty obligations. Japan, as a member of the Management Committee, will continue to support the implementation of the Treaty, and looks forward to working under the Finnish Presidency towards the 3rd Conference of States Parties.

Mr. Chairman,

With respect to small arms and light weapons, I would like to commend Ambassador Courtenay Rattray of Jamaica for his excellent stewardship as the Chair of the 6th Biennial Meeting of States (BMS6) in June this year. Japan emphasised the importance of stockpile management, synergy between the ATT and the PoA and ITI, regional cooperation, and women's participation, as well as the utility of national

reports in matching needs with resources. Japan recognises the growing need and demand among states for international cooperation and assistance, which will contribute to achieving the full and effective implementation of the PoA and ITI. Bearing in mind the 3rd Review Conference to be held in 2018, Japan will continue to work closely with other states and civil society to tackle the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Japan also welcomes France as the President-Designate of the 3rd Review Conference. We reiterate our support to the joint statement made by France concerning the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. We believe it will contribute to enhancing political momentum in the international community to continue our unwavering efforts for this important issue.

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, South Africa, and Japan, so that it will be adopted again by consensus this year.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan appreciates the Belgian Presidency on the success of the 14th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personal Mine Ban Convention (14MSP) in December 2015. We would like to express our appreciation of their commitments to the Convention, including the participation of Her Royal Highness, Princess Astrid, in the 14MSP. Japan attaches importance to mine action programmes and has donated approximately 670 million US Dollars in 51 countries and regions since 1998. Japan will continue its support to the political goals in the Maputo +15 Declaration, adopted at the 3rd Review Conference in 2014, with an emphasis on the clearance of unexploded ordinance, risk reduction education, and especially the role of women.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan congratulates the Dutch Presidency on the success of the 6th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in September, as evidenced in the adoption of the Political Declaration. We attach particular importance to universalisation of the Treaty and international cooperation and assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

We recognise the growing interest in the international community regarding the issue of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS), and commends the leadership of Germany in the 3rd Informal Meeting of Experts which deepened our understanding on this issue through an interactive exchange of views. Japan supports the recommendations of the 3rd Informal Meeting of Experts and the further discussions in the 5th CCW Review Conference in December, for our further understanding on the main elements, including identification of characteristics, elaboration of a working definition of LAWS and application of international law.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman,

I would like to refer to the matrix of contributions due under various disarmament treaties, which was prepared by the UNODA and distributed in this room on the 3rd of October. Japan received invoices for its dues at different times from August to October. Upon receipt of the invoices, Japan is making its utmost efforts and taking necessary procedures to settle them expeditiously.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.