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Chapter 1. Overview (Japan's basic stance on disarmament and non-proliferation of conventional arms)

Conventional arms generally refer to all weapons except weapons of mass destruction, and include various types of weapons such as landmines, combat vehicles, warships, fighter aircrafts, cannons, missiles, etc. Conventional arms also include small arms and light weapons(SALW) such as machine guns. Disarmament and non - proliferation of conventional arms started to draw attention in the international community in the post - Cold War era of the 1990s. What lies behind this is the need to deal with weapons that had been given loose rein during the Cold War without sufficient control and thus injuring victims in the conflict - affected areas. Moreover, in the wake of the 21st century, a serious threat has been mounted for the acquisition of such weapons as surface - to - air missiles by terrorist groups, and efforts are increasingly necessary from a new perspective of preventing conventional weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists.

Japan has taken the following two approaches with regard to conventional arms issues.

One is to universalize and strengthen the regulations and frameworks at an international level. Examples of this approach include active promotion of implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW. Formulation of regulations by the international community and steady implementation of such regulations will prevent SALW from flowing into illegal markets (prevention of an increase of illicit SALW). Japan has also worked on Non - States Parties to the Convention of the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti - personal Mines and on Their Destruction (The Ottawa Convention)as one of its efforts for coping with anti - personal mines.

Another approach is measures against weapons that have already been circulated and accumulated and are the cause of conflict and deterioration of security. Japan has provided assistance on the ground including institution building to prevent illicit inflow of weapons, collection and disposal of weapons (promotion of reduction of illicit SALW). From this viewpoint, Japan has carried out small arms collection projects in Cambodia and has provided support for mine clearance in mine affected countries, such as Afghanistan. Accumulation of knowledge and experience is important for these practical actions and cooperation with international organizations and NGOs with experience and know - how in these areas is also essential.

In recent years, an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) initiative has come to attract attention for securing "responsible transfer" of conventional arms. This is a new movement to control the international transfer of conventional arms including SALW, which can go beyond confidence - building measures. Such efforts of Japan to address conventional arms issues are to embody Japan's diplomatic policy aiming to ensure "consolidation of peace" and "human security" in the process of achieving sustainable development following the end of conflicts.

Chapter 2. Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)

Section1. Background of the SALW issues and international efforts

The weapons that are actually being used and responsible for killing and injuring people in today's conflicts are SALW and therefore many describe them as the "de facto weapons of mass destruction". According to the UN Secretary - General Report of 2002, at least 500,000 people are killed by the use of SALW every year. SALW not only prolong and intensify conflicts, but also impede humanitarian relief and reconstruction activities by the UN and others in the post - conflict period, and cause resurgence of conflicts and increase in crimes.

(Reference)

According to the Report of the UN Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, "small arms and light weapons" cover weapons that are "actually being used in conflicts being dealt with by the United Nations" and that are "manufactured to military specifications", including the following three types: (1) "small arms" that are portable and usable by one person, (2) "light weapons" that are portable and usable by several persons, and (3) ammunitions and explosives. In general, these are collectively called "small arms and light weapons."

The first significant international - level initiative to raise the issue of SALW is said to have been made by then UN Secretary - General Boutros - Boutros Ghali, who appealed the necessity of "micro - disarmament" in his report "Supplement to the Agenda for Peace" in 1995. "Micro - disarmament" means "practical disarmament in the context of the conflicts the United Nations is actually dealing with, and of the weapons, mainly of the light weapons, that are actually killing people in the hundreds of thousands." The United Nations subsequently displayed active initiative in dealing with the issue of SALW, and established the UN Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms in 1996 and the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms in 1998. The Panel and Group examined the issue of SALW and prepared reports of recommendations. Based on the recommendations, the UN Conference on SALW (official name: the UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects) was held in July 2001 and adopted the "Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects." Then, the United Nations first and second biennial meetings to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action were convened in 2003 and 2005. These meetings increased momentum toward the efforts of the international community to deal with the issue.

Section 2. Japan's efforts

1. Efforts made through the United Nations

- (1) Since the issue of SALW was brought up in the international community, Japan has played a leading role in dealing with this issue through the framework of the United Nations. Japan does not export weapons under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Control Law and the three principles on arms export, etc. and there is no export - based military industry, and this gives Japan a position to lead the international community. Specifically, Japan has presented the draft resolution on SALW to the UN General Assembly almost every year since 1995 to raise international public awareness as well as to pave the way in addressing the issue. From 2001, Japan started to present draft resolutions on

SALW jointly with South Africa and Columbia, and the resolutions were adopted by consensus or by an overwhelming majority.

- (2) Japan has also played an important role in international conferences related to SALW held by the United Nations. Japan chaired the above - mentioned UN Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms and the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms (Chairperson: Mr. Mitsuro Donowaki, Special Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (then)) and served as vice - chairperson at the UN Conference on SALW (Vice - chairperson: Mr. Mitsuro Donowaki, Special Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (then)), thereby contributing to successful negotiations on the instruments adopted at the meetings.
- (3) In 2003, Japan, as a chairperson of the UN Biennial Meeting of States on SALW (Chairperson: Ambassador Kuniko Inoguchi, Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament (then)), brought success to the meeting by widely working with participating States and the UN during and prior to the meeting. Also while the meeting was in progress, Japan contributed to finalizing a Chairperson's summary and the meeting ended with the adoption of a report to which this Chairperson's summary was attached. All of these are considered to have consolidated Japan's leading role in dealing with the issues of SALW.

2. Efforts at the regional level and Small Arms Collection Project

- (1) In order to steadfastly implement the UN Programme of Action on SALW at a regional level, Japan co - sponsored the UN Workshop on SALW in Beijing in April 2005, in cooperation with China, Switzerland and the UN, and the UN Workshop on SALW in Bangkok in May 2006, in cooperation with Thailand, Canada and the UNDP.
- (2) Japan has been carrying out projects for SALW in various regions as specific support to SALW - affected countries. Under the "Peace Building and Comprehensive Small Arms Management Program in Cambodia" (450 million yen in FY2002 and 470 million yen in FY2004), Japan comprehensively implemented collection and destruction of SALW, appropriate control of SALW, and education activities, combined with confidence - building measures and development assistance. More than 28,000 of the SALW were collected and destroyed by the end of August 2007. Japan has also granted aid for SALW collection projects combined with community development assistance for the Republic of Sierra Leone and Liberia since March 2006 (via the UNDP, totaling 292 million yen and 232 million yen, respectively) and for the Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo since February 2007 (via the UNDP, totaling 227 million yen and 247 million yen, respectively).



Large quantity of SALW being incinerated (at Cambodia; Source: JICS)



Peace monument made of incinerated SALW (at Cambodia; Source: JICS)

Section 3. Recent efforts

The United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action on SALW was held from June 26 to July 7, 2006 at the UN Headquarters in New York. At the Conference, which aimed to review each state's actual implementation of the Programme of Action, each country's intention to continue to implement the Programme of Action was reconfirmed through general debates and discussions by agenda. More than 2,000 participants from governments, international or

regional organizations and NGOs attended the Conference. From Japan, Parliamentary Vice - Minister for Foreign Affairs Shintaro Ito (then) attended the Conference as the head of the Japanese delegation and delivered a general debate speech at the High Level Segment, advocating the significance of promoting further implementation of the Programme of Action and enhancing efforts to deal with SALW issues.

On March 12 and 13, 2007, Japan hosted a workshop titled "SALW Issues from the Perspective of the Protection and Empowerment of the Peaceful Community." 29 individuals including Diet members, international organization officials, NGO staff from Japan and overseas, and intellectuals, as well as 26 government officials from 18 countries, attended the workshop and had active discussions. At the workshop, it was confirmed that the international community needs to continue extra efforts based on the Programme of Action. Discussions on SALW issues had formerly focused on regulations on the supply side, but at this workshop, fruitful discussions were held especially on practical and successful examples of SALW projects and on factors from the demand side lying behind the possession of SALW. Many suggestive statements were made based on experience obtained through actually implementing various types of projects (collection of SALW and development assistance on a community basis, etc.). It was also pointed out that efforts need to be made both at global and regional levels in the field of arms transfer control, and the participants confirmed the necessity to cooperate with each other for promoting the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) initiative. This was the first government - sponsored workshop concerning this held in the Asian region and was also meaningful in that sense.



A workshop titled "SALW Issues from the Perspective of the Protection and Empowerment of the Peaceful Community" (In March 2007, in Tokyo)

The Group of Governmental Experts on illicit SALW brokering, which consisted of experts from 25 UN member states including Japan, compiled a report at the meeting in June 2007 which includes elements of domestic laws concerning regulations on illicit brokering activities (model examples), additional measures for promoting international cooperation, and recommendations, and submitted it to the UN Secretary - General. Illicit brokering activities refer to activities where a broker moves to a country with loose legal controls on arm trades, connects a supplier and a purchaser, and thereby engages in illicit imports, exports or transfers of arms. The report contains action - oriented model examples and recommendations concerning illicit brokering activities, which was referred to as one of concrete follow -

up matters in the Programme of Action on SALW. The report was submitted to the 62nd UN General Assembly and was adopted.

Chapter 3. Anti-personnel mines

Section 1. Present situation on anti-personnel mine issues

Anti - personnel mines emplaced especially in conflict - affected regions are causing extremely serious humanitarian problems by inflicting injury and death on non - combatant civilians in an indiscriminate manner. Those mines also pose major impediments to reconstruction and development after conflicts have come to an end.

As of 2004, more than 80 countries have been affected by landmines in the world, and the number of people injured or killed by landmines amounts to 15,000 to 20,000 per year. It is believed that more than 110 million landmines are left emplaced, which means it would take 1,100 years to clear all landmines even if we could clear 100,000 landmines a year (data: United Nations 1997). Once emplaced, it will be a long time before a landmine becomes harmless as they are corrosion - resistant (50 to 100 years). In addition, while landmines are easily produced, inexpensive (\$3 to \$10 per mine), and easy to emplace, their clearance is costly (\$100 to \$1,000 per mine). Accordingly, a tremendous amount of money is needed to completely clear landmines, causing an extremely serious problem.

Mine - affected countries have been taking mine - related actions, including mine clearance, with support from donor nations. From 1999 to 2003, more than 1,100 km² of land was cleared and more than 4 million landmines were destroyed throughout the world. (Landmine Monitor Report 2004, compiled mainly by international NGOs).

(Reference) Number of anti-personnel mines possessed, produced and traded, according to research by NGOs

As of 2005, a total of 178 million anti-personnel mines are estimated to be possessed (stored) by 50 countries. The major countries and the number of landmines possessed are listed in 1 below, and produced and traded are listed in 2 below.

1. Estimated number of landmines possessed by countries that have neither signed nor acceded to the Convention of the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and On Their Destruction

(1) China	110,000,000
(2) Russia	26,000,000
(3) United States	10,400,000
(4) Pakistan	6,000,000
(5) India	4,000,000-5,000,000
(6) ROK	410,000

Other than these countries, Myanmar, Egypt, Finland, Iran, Iraq, Israel, North Korea, Syria, and Vietnam are believed to possess anti-personnel mines.

2. Estimated number of landmines produced and traded

At one time more than 50 countries used anti-personnel mines. Since then, some progress has been made; 33 countries among them have acceded to the Ottawa Convention, and five countries ceased production. Many Non-States Parties of the Convention have prohibited or restrained from export of landmines, while there have been some reports concerning illicit transfers of anti-personnel mines.

(Source) "Landmine Monitor Report 2006" compiled mainly by international NGOs

Section 2. Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and On Their Destruction (The Ottawa Convention)

1. Background and Overview

- (1) Based on international opinion that the total ban of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti - personnel mines is necessary for a thorough resolution of anti - personnel mine issues, a path to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti - Personnel Mines and On Their Destruction (The Ottawa Convention) was opened through the activities of NGOs, headed by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), and cooperation from various states in favor of the total ban of anti - personnel mines. Ottawa Convention was drafted prepared through the so - called Ottawa process, which originated from an international conference convened in Ottawa under the auspices of the Government of Canada in October 1996. The Convention was opened for signature in Ottawa in December 1997 and entered into force on March 1, 1999. As of the end of August 2007, 155 states including Japan have concluded the Convention.
- (2) The Ottawa Convention completely prohibits the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti - personnel mines, and commits States Parties to destroy all stockpiled landmines no later than four years after the Convention comes into force and emplaced landmines to be cleared no later than ten years. At the same time, the Convention calls for international cooperation and assistance to clear landmines and assist the landmine victims.
- (3) Following the entry into force of the Ottawa Convention, the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention has been convened every year since 1999. At the end of November 2004, the First Review Conference was convened in Nairobi, and three documents were adopted: first, the Review, which outlines achievements in the past five years and challenges that remain for the goal of a mine - free world; next, the Action Plan as the guidelines for actions on the remaining tasks in the next five years; and last, the High Level Declaration, which presents political commitments to the objective of eliminating anti - personnel mines.

2. Major countries that have not acceded to the Convention and reasons therefor

The United States has not yet acceded to this Convention, among others, because of security concerns regarding the Korean Peninsula, and Russia has not taken this step either as it feels that anti - personnel mines have military effectiveness. China also maintains the position not to accede to the Convention because it considers that anti - personnel mines are necessary for a state with long land borders. The ROK has not acceded to the convention because it considers landmines to be necessary for its defense against a potential invasion by North Korea. India and Pakistan have not acceded to the Convention because of security concerns.

(Reference) Number of anti-personnel mines destroyed

A total of 74 states had destroyed about 39.5 million anti-personnel mines by the end of April 2007. At the same time, thirteen States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and On Their Destruction are in the process of destroying about 16 million stockpiled landmines. The following shows major states that have destroyed anti-personnel mines and the number of mines destroyed.

1. Number of anti-personnel mines destroyed by the States Parties to the Convention that have achieved their destruction targets:

(1) Italy	About 7,100,000
(2) Turkmenistan	About 6,600,000
(3) Switzerland	About 3,900,000
(4) Sweden	About 2,700,000
(5) UK	About 2,400,000

Other than these, Germany (about 1,700,000), Albania (about 1,700,000), France, Romania and Japan (about 1,000,000 for each country), etc. destroyed anti-personnel mines.

2. Number of anti-personnel mines destroyed by the States Parties to the Convention that are still in the process of their destruction and the number of landmines to be destroyed:

(1) Belarus	About 3,700,000
(2) Turkey	About 3,000,000
(3) Greece	About 1,600,000
(4) Ukraine	About 6,700,000

3. Number of anti-personnel mines destroyed by Non-States Parties to the Convention:

(1) Israel	About 15,000,000 (actual performance in 2005)
(2) China	More than 400,000 (1990-2005)

(Source) "Landmine Monitor Report 2006" compiled mainly by international NGOs)

Section 3. Japan's efforts

At the signing ceremony of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti - Personnel Mines and On Their Destruction held in Ottawa in December 1997, Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi (then) proposed the "Zero Victims Program," with the aim of solving the issue of anti - personnel mines, and stated that a comprehensive approach is indispensable, based on the realization of the universal and effective prohibition of anti - personnel mines and strengthening of assistance for mine clearance and victim assistance. Japan has been actively promoting that policy. With emphasis on Asia, Africa and the Middle - East, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Katsuyuki Kawai (then) announced Japan's new policy on mine action at the First Review Conference in Nairobi held in November 2004. Japan will carry out its assistance for mine action on three principles: namely, peace building, human security, and strengthening cooperation between governments, NGOs, the private sector and academia.



The Symposium on Mine Action in connection with the 10th Anniversary of the Ottawa Convention organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (in December 2007, in Tokyo)

1. Accession to relevant conventions by Japan

Japan concluded the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti - Personnel Mines and On Their Destruction under the leadership of then Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi on September 30, 1998. At the same time, the Act on the Prohibition of the Manufacture of Anti - Personnel Mines and Regulation of the Possession of Anti - Personnel Mines was enacted to guarantee execution of the Convention within Japan. Japan completed the destruction of about 1 million stockpiled anti - personnel mines, as the convention required, on February 8, 2003.

From the perspective that the ratification of this Convention by as many states as possible will contribute to solving the issue of anti - personnel mines, Japan has been urging, on every occasion, the governments of Non - States Parties, especially those in the Asia Pacific region including Central Asia and those which have many landmines, to ratify the convention.

Japan participated as the co - chair of the Review Conference, held in November - December 2004 in Nairobi, and also co - chaired with Tanzania the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Awareness and Mine Action Technologies, which was part of the Intersessional Programme of work between 2005 and 2006.

2. Strengthening of mine clearance and victim assistance

(1) Japan announced assistance of some 10 billion yen over five years from 1998 to concretely promote mine clearance and victim assistance based on the "Zero Victims Program," with this amount being disbursed by October 2002. As of August 2007, the accumulated assistance after 1998 totals more than 29 billion yen.

(2) Exceptions to the Three Principles on Arms Exports and relevant regulations

As a measure to further strengthen its efforts on the anti - personnel mine issues, Japan decided not to apply the Three Principles on Arms Exports under specific conditions to the export of equipment needed for mine clearance (announced by the Chief Cabinet Secretary on December 2, 1997). In August 2002, vehicles and mine detectors to be used only for the disposal of

anti - personnel mines were exempted from export licensing since their specifications do not correspond to the definition of weapons as defined by the principles: weapons that are used by military forces and employed directly in combat.

(3) Announcement of a new policy on mine action

As mentioned above, Japan announced a new policy on mine action at the First Review Conference. While placing emphasis on Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, the policy is to continue Japan's support for mine action on a similar scale to the previous assistance, based on three principles: contribution to peace building, the viewpoint of human security, and cooperation between governments, NGOs, the private sector and academia and efforts for technological development as part of the cooperation.

(4) Concrete example of the new policy on mine action: Assistance to Sudan

Japan decided on and carried out assistance totaling about 194 million yen (about 1.75 million dollars) for victim assistance and mine risk education, with a view to protecting people from threats posed by landmines through enhancing ownership and independence of people and communities of Sudan, utilizing the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security and with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as implementing agencies.

(5) Efforts for technological development

As a cooperative effort by governments, NGOs, the private sector and academia, in order to improve the safety and efficiency of demining activities, Japan conducts development of demining related equipment, using existing civilian technologies, and research and development of more advanced detection technologies. Such technology development requires on - site verification tests in mine - affected countries. Japan has conducted the tests in Afghanistan, Croatia and Cambodia thus far. In 2007, procurement of demining equipment in Afghanistan was determined after such tests in the country.



Demonstration of demining activities by the Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC)



Demining activities in Angola (Source: HALO Trust)



Mine risk education activity in Afghanistan

3. Future efforts

It is necessary to promote the universality of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti - Personnel Mines and On Their Destruction and to develop an international environment that makes it much harder to emplace anti - personnel mines. Japan will pay attention to its "visibility" in providing assistance by, for example, dispatching Japanese personnel and developing demining technologies by using Japan's advanced technology, in addition to continuing to provide traditional assistance based on financial aid through international organizations and the Grant Assistance for Grass - roots Human Security and the Grant Aid for Japanese NGOs' Projects, etc. In order to also implement more effective and efficient assistance, the Conventional Arms Division of the Disarmament, Non - proliferation and Science Department will formulate comprehensive policies for mine action and undertake overall coordination as a competent office within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

(Reference) Record of assistance (as of FY2006)

1. Mine action in general	: \$8.2 million (six projects)
(1) Assistance through international organizations	: \$8 million
(2) Technical cooperation	: \$0.18 million
(3) Others	: \$0.04 million
2. Demining	: \$18.9 million (24 projects)
(1) Bilateral assistance	: \$3 million
(2) Assistance through international organizations	: \$3 million
(3) Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects	: \$9.6 million
(4) Grant assistance for Japanese NGOs	: \$2.8 million
(5) Technical cooperation	: \$0.44 million
3. Victim assistance	: \$12.3 million (three projects)
(1) Bilateral assistance	: \$12.2 million
(2) Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects	: \$0.09 million
4. Mine risk education	: \$0.76 million (three projects)
(1) Assistance through international organizations	: \$0.41 million
(2) Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects	: \$0.09 million
(3) Grant assistance for Japanese NGOs	: \$0.26 million

Chapter 4. Convention on Prohibition or Restriction on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW)

Section 1. Overview of the Convention

The Convention on Prohibition or Restriction on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW), which consists of the Framework Convention that specifies procedural matters and annexed Protocols that regulate respective conventional weapons, prohibits or restricts the use of conventional weapons that are deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects. At present, the following five Protocols have entered into force.

- Protocol I: Protocol on Non - Detective Fragments (entered into force in 1983)
- Amended Protocol II: Protocol on Prohibition or Restriction on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps (Note: meaning bombs laid in harmless - looking objects such as food and toys) and Other Devices (entered into force in 1998)
- Protocol III: Protocol on Prohibition or Restriction on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (entered into force in 1983)
- Protocol IV: Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (entered into force in 1998)
- Protocol V: Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (entered into force in 2006)

Japan has concluded the Framework Convention and Protocols I to IV, including Amended Protocol II.

Section 2. Recent development (Cluster munitions)

Although there is not always a clear definition of cluster munitions, it generally refers to bombs based on the following mechanism: a large container of a large amount of sub - munitions is dropped from the air and the container is opened at a certain altitude above the ground to scatter the sub - munitions over a wide range. While a cluster munition can dissipate the explosive power of one bomb and affect a wide range, which cannot be done with a conventional bomb, it is said that the probability of leaving unexploded ordnance is higher. In 2006, unexploded ordnance left after the Israeli attack using cluster munitions against Lebanon caused serious civilian damages, and this incident heightened calls among the international community for regulation on cluster munitions.

Humanitarian concerns caused by cluster munition remnants have been addressed under the framework of the CCW. The Third Review Conference of the CCW in November 2006 decided to further consider the application and implementation of existing humanitarian law to munitions, that may cause ERW, with particular focus on cluster munitions. At the Group of Governmental Experts(GGE) meeting convened by this decision in June 2007, a recommendation was adopted, requesting the Meeting of the States Parties to decide how best to address the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions as a matter of urgency, including the possibility of a new instrument. In response to the recommendations, at the Meeting of the States Parties held in November 2007decided by consensus that the GGE negotiate a proposal to address urgently the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions at the earliest possible date under the framework of the CCW and report on the progress made to the Meeting of the States Parties in November 2008.

In February 2007, Norway, considering the efforts made under the CCW insufficient, convened a conference in Oslo. The Oslo Declaration, issued as an outcome of the conference, declared to hold an international meeting

outside the framework of the CCW to conclude by 2008 a legally binding international instrument that will prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians. The process starting with this Declaration is called the Oslo Process, under which issues of cluster munitions have been discussed especially from a humanitarian perspective.

Japan has provided assistance for clearance of unexploded ordnances including cluster munitions in Lebanon, Laos, Afghanistan and other places. In order to address humanitarian concerns caused by cluster munitions in an effective manner, it is necessary to carry out discussions with due considerations to a good balance between humanitarian concerns and security requirements, while calling for the participation of major producer countries and possessing countries of cluster munitions. Japan has actively participated in a variety of international discussions and has supported, from the viewpoint of effectiveness, the necessity to continue negotiations for concluding an international instrument concerning cluster munitions under the framework of the CCW with the participation of major states.

Chapter 5. UN Register of Conventional Arms

Section 1. Background and overview

1. The United Nations Register of Conventional Arms is an arrangement established by the UN General Assembly resolution entitled "Transparency in Armaments," which was jointly submitted by Japan and the member states of EC (then) and adopted by an overwhelming majority in 1991. It was a groundbreaking arrangement that increases transparency and openness with regard to armaments, mainly in the area of the international transfer of conventional arms, with the aim of building confidence among countries and preventing an excessive accumulation of arms, while considering the fact that the excessive accumulation of arms by Iraq led to the destabilization of the region and culminated in the Gulf War in 1991.
2. This arrangement calls upon the UN member states to keep a record of imports and exports from the preceding year of the seven categories(Note) of conventional arms listed as weapons used for full scale invasion, specifically, the quantity transferred within the year and the names of the importing and exporting countries and to provide the record in a designated form to the UN Secretariat. In addition, the UN member states are invited to provide data on their military holdings and procurement through national production, etc.

(Note) Seven categories of conventional arms that should be reported

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| . Battle tanks | . Armored combat vehicles | . Large caliber artillery systems | |
| . Combat aircraft | . Attack helicopters | . Warships | . Missiles and missile launchers |

3. At the Group of Governmental Experts meeting convened every three years, the definitions of these seven categories, scope and operation, etc. are reviewed.

At the Meeting in 2003, weapons subject to the Register were changed as follows: (1) lowering the bore diameter of large caliber artillery systems to be registered from 100mm to 75mm, and (2) adding man - portable air defense systems (MANPADS) to missiles and missile launchers as a sub - category. It was also recommended that member countries should voluntarily submit additional information concerning transfer of small arms and light weapons.

At the Meeting in 2006, a form for registering SALW was newly prepared and the threshold of "warships" was lowered from 750 tons to 500 tons.

4. More than 110 of the UN member states participate in the Register. The Register covers most international transfers of arms since the major arms exporting states provide data for the Register. However, it is important to promote further understanding of and participation in the Register of African and Middle Eastern countries, in view of their low rate of participation.

China, which participated in the Register from 1992 to 1996 but had stopped providing data after submitting a report for 1996 in 1997, came back to participate in August 2007 by submitting a report for 2006.

Section 2. Japan's policy

1. The establishment of this Register was triggered by the fact that Japan announced the Immediate Measures against Problems in the Middle East after the Gulf Crisis in the wake of lessons learned in the Gulf War at the beginning of 1991, and called for (1) self - restraints of arms export by the major arms exporting states and (2) establishment of a UN register system of international trade of conventional arms. Subsequently, Japan and EC states (then) jointly prepared a draft UN resolution to establish the arrangement.
2. Consequently, Japan has been urging the governments of the UN member states to submit data in order to universalize the Register, as well as contributing to strengthening the Register, including support for holding workshops. In addition, Japan has participated in and played a central role in every Group of Governmental Experts meeting, which has been held every three years in principle to discuss the implementation status of the Register (next meeting is scheduled in 2009).
3. For example, at the 10th anniversary of the establishment, Japan served as one of the sponsors of the Workshop on Transparency in Armaments, which had been held in Ghana, Namibia, Peru, and Indonesia between 2002 and 2003, and made efforts to universalize the Register and increase the participating states. In December 2006, governmental experts from Japan attended, together with governmental experts from other states (participants of the aforementioned Group of Governmental Experts meeting), the "Regional Workshop on Register of Conventional Arms" hosted by the United Nations in Thailand and requested other Asian states to participate in the Register.

Chapter 6. Other issues surrounding conventional arms

The following is an outline of other recent movements concerning conventional arms.

Section 1. Development concerning an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Initiative

One of the significant developments in the field of conventional arms in recent years is the progress of an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) initiative. Before an ATT, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, which is one of the confidence - building measures, had represented the global efforts regarding conventional arms in general, although there were some measures taken regionally or among limited countries.

The concept of an ATT has come to attract the attention of the international community as a means to secure "responsible transfer" of conventional arms. This concept was first promoted actively by the United Kingdom and international NGOs, and in 2006, seven states (the UK, Japan, Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland, and Kenya) led by the United Kingdom prepared a draft UN resolution for establishing a Group of Governmental Experts meeting to deepen discussions on an ATT. The draft was welcomed by many member states at the UN General Assembly in 2006 (101 states were added as co - sponsors to the original seven co - sponsors of the draft resolution) and the entirety of the draft resolution was adopted by an overwhelming majority.

Pursuant to the resolution, the UN Secretary - General requested UN member states for their views on an ATT, and compiled a report thereof and submitted it to the 62nd UN General Assembly. By the end of 2007, 95 states submitted their views.

The Group of Governmental Experts met in 2008 to discuss the feasibility, scope and draft parameters of an ATT, based on the views submitted by member states.

Section 2. Conventional ammunition

At the Open - Ended Working Group on the international instrument to enable states to identify and trace illicit small arms and light weapons, which was compiled in 2005, paragraph 27 of the working group report concluded, after a debate as to whether or not ammunition should be covered by said international instrument, that "it is recommended that the issue of small arms and light weapons ammunition be addressed in a comprehensive manner as part of a separate process conducted within the framework of the United Nations."

Responding to such moves, France and Germany submitted a draft resolution "Problems arising from the Accumulation of Conventional Ammunition Stockpiles in Surplus" (UN Resolution 61/72) to the UN General Assembly in 2006 and it was adopted. This resolution covers a wider scope, basically based on the aforementioned recommendation on small arms and light weapons ammunition, by using the term "conventional ammunition." This Resolution requires the UN Secretary - General to request UN member states for their opinions on this matter and submit a report at the 62nd UN General Assembly. Furthermore, a Group of Governmental Experts meeting was held in 2008 and a report thereof is to be submitted at the 63rd UN General Assembly. Under this Resolution, the issue of conventional ammunition has come to be discussed in a clear process separate from that for small arms and light

weapons.