



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

The Eighth Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
2nd Working Group and Preparatory Meetings
Working Group on Treaty Universalization
28 April 2022, Geneva

Mr President,

At the outset, let me congratulate the Philippines again for their ratification of the ATT in March this year. Japan warmly welcomes the Philippines as a new State Party from the Asia Pacific region and as the first ASEAN member state to join the Treaty. We are also pleased to hear the progress made by the Government of Gambia to join the ATT, and are looking forward to its early accession to the Treaty.

Japan would like to express its gratitude to Ambassador Göbel and Ambassador Gberie for your efforts as co-chairs of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization. Japan shares the priority of the German CSP8 Presidency on universalization in the Asia Pacific Region and appreciates its focused approach.

In order to achieve our shared goal of establishing the highest possible common international standards for regulating conventional arms trade and promoting transparency and responsible action by state parties, we need to redouble our efforts towards further universalization.

Japan continues to play a role in ATT universalization in encouraging non-State Parties by using the opportunities of bilateral dialogues on disarmament and arms control issues. We have also co-hosted the ATT universalization roundtable for the Asia Pacific region with Australia, New Zealand and Control Arms annually, which underlines and discusses the benefits and specific challenges of joining the ATT.

Lastly, to strengthen the effectiveness of the ATT, further universalization is necessary. Japan calls on all non-States Parties, including signatory States, to accede to and ratify the Treaty without further delay. Japan is committed to increasing our collective efforts and to working toward universalization.

I thank you, Co-Chairs.