

Statement on Treaty Universalization by the Government of Japan
Sixth Conference of States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty
August 17-21, 2020

Mr. President,

On this occasion, Japan would like to express its profound gratitude to Argentina and Latvia for their treaty universalization efforts as co-chairs of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization throughout the CSP6 cycle despite the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Japan held the CSP4 Presidency and co-chaired the Working Group during the CSP4 and CSP5 cycles, having actively engaged with non-States Parties for the aim of treaty universalization, together with Finland and Latvia.

During the universalization journey, we have repeatedly heard that documents explaining the significance of the Treaty in respective mother tongues are essential for stakeholders to gain understanding of the Treaty. This has led to the adoption of the Universalization Toolkit and Welcome Pack at CSP5. We welcome that the Government of the Republic of Korea took initiative and secured funding for the translation of these documents into 10 Asian languages, in addition to the UN official languages based on the decision of the CSP.

We welcome Maldives, Namibia, China, Sao Tome and Principe, Afghanistan, and Niue, which have submitted instruments to become States Parties since CSP5. Japan will continue its universalization efforts, particularly in Asia.

We would like to encourage all States that have not become States Parties to the Treaty, including signatory States and observer States, to join the Treaty.

This year, we are pleased to again co-host the Asia Pacific Universalization Roundtable together with our traditional co-hosts of Australia, New Zealand, and Control Arms, as well as our new co-host this year, the Republic of Korea. The roundtable has been held the past two years on the occasion of the CSP, and we are excited to hold it online for the first time, which will allow an exchange of views with participants from respective capitals.