



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement by Mr. Shigeru UMETSU
Deputy Permanent Representative,
Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament

The Eighth Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
Treaty Universalization
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Mr. President,

Japan would like to express its sincere gratitude to Ambassador Göbel and Ambassador Gberie for your dedication to treaty universalization as co-chairs of the Working Group. I would also like to extend our appreciation to the Secretariat for his insightful presentation. Japan attaches great importance to the universalization of the ATT, in particular in the Asia Pacific region. In this regard, Japan would like to express again its sincere welcome to the Philippines as a new State Party and as the first ASEAN member state to join the Treaty.

Japan was also pleased to hear the status update yesterday by the Government of The Gambia and its commitment to join the Treaty, and we are looking forward to seeing its accession soon.

This year, in cooperation with Australia, New Zealand and Control Arms, Japan co-hosted the universalisation roundtable for the Asia-Pacific region in June in Geneva. The event brought together nearly 30 participants from 16 delegations of Asian Pacific countries and 3 organizations. Discussions among participants covered the benefits of ATT membership, the support provided by the Voluntary Trust Fund and participants also shared their experiences and efforts to join the ATT. Japan has also continued to promote ATT universalization through

opportunities of bilateral dialogues on disarmament and arms control issues.

Mr. President,

In the annex of the Working Group report, the co-Chairs are proposing elements to consider the way forward of the WGTU in a more effective and coordinated manner. Japan welcomes your initiative and we share your view that the work of WGTU with a longer term perspective would benefit states in their national processes to join the Treaty.

Finally, I would like to conclude my statement by encouraging all the non-States Parties to accede or ratify the ATT as soon as possible.

Thank you, Mr. President.