



Statement of the Government of Japan
on International Assistance

The Eighth Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

25 August 2022, Geneva

Mr President,

Japan would like to thank the Chair of the VTF Selection Committee and the Secretariat for their dedication to the work of VTF and their presentations yesterday. Japan also appreciates the efforts made by states in implementing their projects despite the challenging situation caused by COVID-19.

The VTF is a vital framework to support national implementation of the Treaty. Applications for VTF projects are open to any state in need of assistance. We believe that the VTF could be an incentive for non-states parties to join the Treaty and an invaluable tool to facilitate universalization.

Since the establishment of the VTF, Japan has served as a member of its Selection Committee and has continued to promote its value and benefits to non-states parties.

The VTF Guidance for the Selection Process sets five elements to assess a project proposal, which facilitates the assessment process by the Selection Committee.

Japan sees “financial considerations” as one of the criteria to assess project

applications, but it is not the sole deciding factor. As a member of the Selection Committee, Japan has carefully assessed applications in line with the VTF Guidance, and we think that the status of states' contributions is one of the important elements for the assessment process, together with other criteria, namely; political commitment, strategic vision, project design and project controls.

Mr President,

Last year, CSP7 adopted the financial guidelines, which Japan understands are a support measure for countries facing challenges to fulfil their financial obligations. Japan strongly encourages states to take advantage of the financial guidelines. We believe initiating consultations with the Secretariat for a future repayment plan, in line with the financial guidelines, will help improve financial status in the future and demonstrate political commitment to the ATT.

I thank you, Mr President.