



**Statement of the Government of Japan
on Matters pertaining to the Secretariat
The Seventh Conference of the Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
August 31 2021**

Mr. President,

Japan appreciates the work of the Secretariat to enable the Treaty to continue its multiple functions, and especially for organising the CSP, the preparatory meeting, and other occasions of our discussions. It is thanks to the reliable and precise work of the Secretariat that our discussions have been proceeding smoothly, including through online modalities, despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Japan would also like to thank the Secretariat for the formulation of the proposed budget for 2022. On this occasion, we would like to mention that for all the international organizations and entities, Japan's basic position on their budget is zero-nominal growth. Even in the case of necessary increase, we normally request efficient budget formulation and implementation by absorbing any increase through scrap-and-build or other cost-saving efforts.

As for the proposed budget for 2022, the Management Committee, including Japan, gave consent to the distribution of the current proposal despite an increase from this year's budget, based on the considerations for the adverse fluctuation of the exchange rate and the concerns raised within the Management Committee that savings made on the budget might possibly limit the capacity and function of the Secretariat.

In order to maintain and reinforce the stable and effective function of the Secretariat amid the difficult financial prospect, each and every State Party needs to pay its assessed contribution in a timely manner. Once again, Japan would like to stress the importance of each State fulfilling its obligation to pay its assessed contribution. Please rest assured, Mr. President, that even under the current difficult financial circumstances, Japan will continue to comply with its obligations under this valuable Treaty.

Thank you, Mr. President.