

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. TOSHIO SANO AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

The First Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
24- 27 August 2015, Cancun, Mexico

H.E. Mr. José Antonio Meade Kuribreña, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico,
President-designate of the Conference,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Mexico for their warm hospitality and hard work in preparing and hosting the First Conference of States Parties to the ATT, as well as their outstanding leadership during the preparatory process to this conference. I also appreciate the Coordinators, States Parties, especially those that hosted preparatory meetings, international organizations and civil society for their collective and unwavering efforts and engagement for the ATT.

Mr. President-designate,

The ATT, undoubtedly, is an epoch-making achievement in a history of conventional arms control. Conventional arms have played an important role in ensuring national security. But their unregulated or illicit trade has caused devastating human suffering and regional instability, and undermined social and economic development. With these concerns in mind, Japan, for the past two decades, has actively involved itself in the rule-making process of conventional arms. One example is that Japan, together with the then European Community, proposed the establishment of the UN Register of Conventional Arms, which has worked well and contributed to the transparency of arms transfers. Another example is that Japan took a lead in the issue of small arms and light weapons in the late 1990s and contributed to the formulation of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. Having made such efforts, however, Japan saw it as a matter of priority to strengthen an international norm regarding arms transfers based on those existing mechanisms. That is why Japan, together with other six co-authors, tabled the initial UN General Assembly resolution on the Arms Trade

Treaty in 2006.

Mr. President-designate,

The adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty and its prompt entry-into-force are significant achievements. The number of states that have ratified the Treaty has reached 72. However, challenges remain to be tackled. Universalization of the Treaty will be an important challenge for all of us, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, since a wider adherence to this Treaty is definitely important for the effectiveness of the Treaty. In addition, international cooperation should be strengthened for states in need in order to facilitate their capacity building efforts in implementing the Treaty's obligations.

Mr. President-designate,

Japan believes that the ATT has the following significance and is beneficial for the entire international community:

First, the ATT will strengthen “the rule of law” in the international trade of conventional arms. Unlike the previous instruments on conventional arms, the ATT is the first universal, legally-binding agreement that duly regulates the international transfer in conventional arms.

Second, the ATT will further enhance “human security.” It will help save lives, combat crime and terrorism, and protect human rights by preventing conventional arms from being transferred into the wrong hands. It has been said that small arms and light weapons are de-facto weapons of mass destruction. Every year, a significant number of people become victims due to the use of small arms and light weapons. Japan is pleased that not only small arms and light weapons, but also ammunitions, are covered by the Treaty, thus covering the broadest possible scope of arms.

Third, the ATT will contribute to confidence building among states through a reporting mechanism that enhances transparency in arms transfer.

In order to realize these real and significant benefits of the Treaty and to ensure the

effective implementation of the Treaty, we must establish an agreement on various pending matters, including the Rules of Procedure at this conference.

Thanks to the persistent consultations among states during the preparatory meetings in Mexico City, Berlin, Port of Spain, Vienna, and Geneva, views of each member state have been converging but some issues remain. The issues that we have discussed over the last several months contain cross-cutting elements, which appeared in discussions regarding the Secretariat, Rules of Procedure, and Financial Rules. Japan, for its part, has underscored the most salient points that concern not only the rules of procedure, but also other items. In our view, all these matters have to be addressed together.

Mr. President-designate,

As a strong proponent of the Arms Trade Treaty, Japan attaches the utmost importance to the effective and efficient implementation of the Treaty. Such implementation will require proper mechanisms on procedure and finance, which will serve as its basis.

During the discussions on the Rules of Procedure, Japan proposed repeatedly that decisions on financial matters shall be taken only by consensus. We also advocated for the need to place “a cap and a floor”, i.e., ceiling and minimum payment as mandatory contributions. The main reason why we have been emphasizing these points is that we are seriously concerned that the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules will be adopted without a mechanism that ensures “financial or budgetary discipline.”

In this connection, we strongly support the establishment of a “management committee” with the Terms of Reference as proposed in Working Paper 5, which should be reflected in the Financial Rules, since we believe that the committee would address our concern to a large extent. We are confident that the management committee will help ensure better management of the Secretariat’s activities, financial soundness, and cost-effectiveness in the implementation of the Treaty.

Mr. President-designate,

Outcomes of our deliberations at the First Conference of States Parties will have a

significant impact on the implementation of the Treaty. I would like to reiterate my delegation's full commitment to actively participate in the discussions and our utmost support to the work of the conference. I would also like to call upon all the delegations to work together in the spirit of cooperation and flexibility so that this conference will come to a successful conclusion.

I thank you, Mr. President-designate.

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