

**General Statement for the Fifth Conference of States Parties to the
Arms Trade Treaty
Ambassador Nobushige Takamizawa
Permanent Representative of Japan
to the Conference on Disarmament
26 August 2019**

Mr. President,

Allow me to begin by thanking you for your experienced stewardship as President of CSP5, and for deepening the discussion on issues of gender and gender-based violence.

Mr. President, dear colleagues,

Multilateral agreements gain credibility as their membership increases. It is noteworthy that the Treaty has 104 States Parties after it took effect only five years ago, with Canada being the latest country to accede. I commend your determined universalization efforts as President, setting an ambitious target of 150 States Parties.

During Japan's Presidency from CSP3 to CSP4, and for the last 24 months as Co-chair of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization, Japan has undertaken universalization efforts through diplomatic means on a global basis while focusing on the Asia Pacific region, where membership is still limited. Three weeks ago, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and Control Arms co-organized an Asia-Pacific ATT Universalization Roundtable in Geneva with the support of the Secretariat, UNIDIR, ICRC, OXFAM, Small Arms Survey, and WILPF, as well as current Vice President ROK and upcoming Vice President Kazakhstan.

As has been said, universalization is a long journey. It is our common understanding that former Presidents and co-chairs are encouraged to continue to promote universalization. Given the universalization situation in the Asia-Pacific region, Japan will continue to work hard in this area.

Mr. President,

Just as significant as treaty universalization is its implementation. The Voluntary Trust Fund, of which Japan serves as a donor and a member of the Selection Committee, has

been a driving force for Treaty implementation. In this regard, Japan values the ACCESS, or Arms Control, Capacity and Evaluation Support System, launched by Small Arms Survey with funding of Japan, which has served to provide capability gap analysis, offer expertise for States requiring assistance to complete VTF project application forms, and find appropriate project implementation partners. I hope that access to this support system will be widely available.

In the implementation phase, I hope more VTF projects will be carried out, benefitting from the expertise of civil society and regional and international organizations.

Mr. President,

As CSP4 President, I proposed diversion as a thematic discussion topic, and I am pleased to see how discussion further progressed to date and continues to flourish toward CSP6.

This week, informal consultations on specific cases of diversion, both in open and closed settings, will take place for the first time. Japan, together with The Stimson Center and Conflict Armament Research, will hold a Stakeholders Session on diversion, open to all States, civil society and industry members. I hope to see as many participants as possible at this event tomorrow morning at eight thirty in Room 4.

Mr. President,

I am grateful for your strong commitment to dealing with financial issues by conducting bilateral meetings with States in arrears. I join your repeated calls during the CSP5 cycle for States to fulfill their Treaty obligations.

Japan wishes to contribute as a member of the Management Committee for the next two years, and when approved, we will do our best to monitor the financial situation and effectiveness of the potential new Reserve Fund.

Mr. President,

In just fourteen months, any State Party will be able to propose an amendment to this Treaty. I believe any discussions we have toward CSP6 and beyond must focus on sharing challenges in treaty implementation, and developing measures to reinforce the effectiveness of the Treaty itself. Japan stands ready to work with future CSP Presidents

in this regard.

I thank you, Mr. President.