General Statement on the SALW draft resolution
(26 Oct. 2005)

Mr. Chairman,

• I would like to make some remarks regarding the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/50/5-S*, entitled, "The illicit trade in small arms and "light weapons in all its aspects" which was submitted by Japan, Colombia, South Africa and other co-sponsor countries.

• It is deeply regrettable for the international community that a request was made to put a paragraph of this resolution to a separate voting. This resolution enjoyed consensus adoption in the past years. It is Japan's strong belief that it should be adopted by consensus in order to ensure a active and steady implementation of the UN Programme of Action at all levels which demonstrates a reliable approach to resolving SALW problems.

• With regard to the particular paragraph put to a vote (art. OPI), I would like to remind all the delegations that the paragraph calls upon all States to implement the International Instrument on marking and tracing. I am aware that there would be a kind of dissatisfaction among certain countries especially vis-à-vis the nature of this Instrument. However I would like to point out following two points in this occasion.

  - First, the negotiation of the draft instrument was concluded by consensus in the OEWG last June. It was not a voting and there was no objection against consensus adoption.
  - Second, regardless of the nature of the Instrument, the implementation of its content is possible and necessary.

• Having said that, I hope that a separate voting will never give a negative impact upon the 2006 Review Conference. The Review Conference in 2006 will mark a significant occasion for the international community in tackling SALW problems. Japan sincerely hopes that the international community will make every efforts for the success of the Review Conference as mentioned this year's resolution.

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