Resolution on Conventional Ammunition Stockpiles in Surplus

I would like to explain Japan’s position on the vote on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/61/L.26, entitled, “Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus”.

Japan, like other Member States, attaches great importance to resolving the problem of ammunitions, which is inseparable from the issue of conventional weapons. Therefore, it is Japan’s belief that we should continue in-depth discussions and exchanges of views among Member States in order to adequately address this problem, through the concerted efforts of the entire international community.

However, in our view the discussions at the regional and global levels so far have not developed sufficiently for the international community to be able to share a common understanding on this matter. In the current situation, Japan is of the view that the establishment of the proposed GGE on ammunitions would be still premature.

In this connection, I would like to draw the special attention of all Member States as well as the DDA secretariat to Japan’s concerns about the expansion of the UN budget. As it has been stated on many occasions, Japan cannot accept the UN budget to expand in an uncontrolled manner. With regard to GGEs, we believe that we should look very closely into their value and usefulness beforehand, and that their establishment should be restricted to cases in which they can be expected to have real value, taking into consideration the necessity of the healthy management of the UN budget and making maximum use of scrapping and building of existing UN programmes.

Japan will continue to pay close attention to this issue in the future.

Thank you.