STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. MARI AMANO
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HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 66th SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THEMATIC DEBATE: CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

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Mr. Chairman,

We are witnessing some positive developments in the field of Conventional Weapon. The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) process is now entering the final negotiation stage and this year marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Programme of Action (PoA) on small arms and light weapons. Universalization and implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention are steadily progressing. Japan has been actively engaged in these processes and we are determined to continue to do so.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan fully shares the concerns about the serious humanitarian impact caused by anti-personnel landmines and cluster munitions. I would like to reiterate Japan’s call to all the countries that are not parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the CCM to accede to them as soon as possible and join our collective efforts towards universalization of these treaties. Japan, for its part, will continue its outreach activities in collaboration with various actors.
We consider that it is important at the 11th MSP of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention next month in Cambodia to take stock of the progress in accordance with the Cartagena Action Plan. It is also important to consider how better to facilitate our work in carrying out that Plan.

Japan has been continuously extending its support to landmine and cluster munition clearance activities and victim assistance, and it is our intention to continue this support in order to aid the efforts to curb the humanitarian problems caused by these weapons. Since December 2010, Japan's contribution in this area amounts to over 31 million US dollars. We welcome further discussions on effective and efficient utilization of resources with other states parties and partners.

Mr. Chairman,

The establishment of a legally binding instrument on the highest possible common international standards for the transfer of conventional arms is an urgent task. Japan is pleased with the progress made in the ATT process so far.

Under the able chairmanship of Ambassador Roberto Garcia Moritan, we have deepened our deliberations towards the creation of an ATT over the course of its three Preparatory Committees. The chair's paper circulated at the last Preparatory Committee covers important elements for the treaty and provides a good basis for negotiations. We count on Ambassador Moritan's continued leadership in the lead up to and during the UN Conference on the ATT next July. It is crucial that we ratchet up our political will in order to create a robust treaty at that Conference. As one of the strong promoters of the ATT process, Japan is determined to work diligently together with the chair and other states to this end.

Mr. Chairman,

Last May's Meeting of Governmental Experts on small arms held in New York was an excellent opportunity to exchange information and share experiences among the relevant experts on the marking, record-keeping and tracing of small arms. We commend the tireless efforts by the Chair, Ambassador McLay of New Zealand, and his team.
Last week, Japan together with Colombia and South Africa submitted a draft-resolution on small arms and light weapons to this Committee. We call on all member states to support this draft-resolution and hope that it will be adopted by consensus.

The UN Review Conference on PoA next year will be a great opportunity to review the progress made in the implementation of the Programme over the past ten years and to elaborate a future direction for promoting its implementation. Since each country interprets and puts into effect the PoA on its own accord, it would also be beneficial to develop a common understanding on the PoA with a view to strengthening its implementation.

I would like to announce here today that Japan has decided to make financial contributions of approximately $300,000 through the UN Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities to the following three projects proposed by the UNODA: “Further Transparency in the Arms Trade”, “Promoting Synergy among Conventional Arms Information Platforms” and “UN Safer Guard: Securing Ammunition From the Dual Dangers of Explosion and Diversion”. We believe these projects will benefit all states.

Mr. Chairman,

We will have a heavy workload ahead of us next year in the field of conventional weapons with the ATT Conference, the PoA Review Conference and their Preparatory Committees, as well as the annual MSPs of the CCM, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the CCW. This will be a challenge, but also a great opportunity to strengthen legal and political frameworks as well as to initiate various measures to address issues in these areas. Japan will engage actively and constructively in all of these processes and will look forward to working closely with other states and civil society.

I thank you for your attention.