

BMS5: Agenda Item 6
Stockpile Management, including physical security measures
Draft-Statement by Japan

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to express my warmest congratulations to you, Ambassador Tanin, on your assumption as the Chair of this BMS5. My Delegation would like to thank you for your great efforts in preparing for this meeting. Japan stands ready to work with all other delegates to produce a robust outcome document. And, I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation throughout this week.

Mr. Chairman,

The 2012 Review Conference successfully produced comprehensive and substantive outcome documents. We now need to implement these commitments. After the Review Conference we have witnessed new developments that address issues related to small arms and light weapons. The adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty and the Security Council resolution 2117 are among those. Since we believe that these new frameworks are mutually reinforcing our efforts on small arms and light weapons, we hope they will be reflected in our outcome document in a proper way.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman,

Let me now make several comments on the section of "stockpile management", which my delegation has strongly advocated as an urgent issue to be tackled. In general, we appreciate that the current draft has already incorporated many points proposed by Japan.

Firstly, I would like to stress the importance of paragraph 1, since appropriate physical security and stockpile management is essential in our efforts to prevent their diversion to the illicit market and to prevent further accidental stockpile explosions.

Secondly, given the reality that the accidental explosions are mainly due to the ammunition, like in the case of the Republic of Congo in March 2012, we cannot consider effective stockpile management of small arms and light weapons by

completely divorcing ammunition. In this regard, we support inclusion of ammunition in paragraph 7.

Thirdly, we believe it extremely useful to agree on a guideline or standard on stockpile management without putting excessive burdens on states. If States would agree, we may discuss in details, for example, at the BMS6 in 2016. We may also consider inviting Member States to report on good practices and lessons learnt concerning national guidelines on stockpile management, when they will submit their national reports in the same year. In this regard, paragraph 9 and 19 are important.

Fourthly, we agree with those who advocate the need to explore life-cycle management as a whole. And, we welcome the inclusion of the reference to it in paragraph 8 and 18. However, we suggest elaborating further concrete measures at the end of the paragraph 18.

Fifthly, as indicated in the UN Secretary General's report, which Japan welcomes, new technologies such as biometric technologies and GPS could improve stockpile accounting and security system. Therefore, we support paragraphs 5 and 16, and propose that the MGE in 2016 will take up and further elaborate this issue.

Sixthly, we strongly support paragraph 6 and others related to women and children since they are particularly vulnerable in the situation of armed conflict, we agree with the call to further develop measures to reduce the negative impact caused by illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women and children.

Mr. Chairman, importance of women's involvement in every field was stressed by our Prime Minister Abe in his speech at the UNGA last year, and this is also true to the issue of SALW.

The role of women, in particular mothers, is significant to educate children about the risk caused by small arms and prevent them from becoming soldiers. Therefore, it is important to facilitate women's full and meaningful participation in policymaking, planning and implementation processes related to the PoA, including stockpile management. Also, it should be encouraged for those involved in the planning for DDR to take into account the particular needs of women and children.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out the importance of the regional cooperation and express our support on paragraphs 11 and 22 for sharing information and good practices related to stockpile management. The role of regional organizations is significant in this regard, and Japan welcomes the meeting in Myanmar organized by the UN Regional Center in Asia and the Pacific in May this year. We should continue encouraging such a regional approach.

These are our initial response to the draft 4, but I will intervene in the course of consultations.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.