



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

**General Statement delivered by Ambassador Ichiro OGASAWARA
Permanent Representative of the Delegation of Japan
at the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on
Certain Conventional Weapons Systems (CCW)
16 November 2022, Geneva**

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to congratulate you for your election as the Chairperson of the present meeting.

Japan attaches particular importance to the universalization of the CCW and rule-making efforts conducted within its frameworks. In this regards, I welcome the ratification of the CCW by the Republic of Malawi in September this year. It is also vital to address effectively non-compliance cases of the CCW obligations.

We welcome the adoption ceremony of the Political Declaration on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA) in Ireland on November 18. The use of Improvised Explosive devices (IED) is a major concern in the EWIPA context as well. Last year, we were able to adopt the updated IED Declaration at the Amended Protocol II Annual Conference, which Japan has the honor to chair, and we will continue to focus on this issue.

It is essential to continue discussion within the CCW to further foster a common understanding on key issues about LAWS. It is indispensable to make a decision on the mandate and number of days for next year's LAWS GGE.

Strengthening the financial base of the Convention is one of the most important issues. We welcome the approval of the new financial regulations at the Sixth Review Conference. Japan strongly urges each High Contracting Party to fulfil its financial obligations under the Convention.

Mr. Chair,

Japan is deeply concerned about serious and widely-reported non-compliance cases with respect to CCW obligations caused by the Russian unlawful aggression against Ukraine. The killing of innocent civilians is a serious violation of the IHL, on which the whole structure of the CCW is built, and is absolutely unforgivable. High accountability should be kept on these non-compliance cases.

We hope this Meeting will promote the objectives of the Convention through constructive discussions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.