

Statement of Japan
at the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States
to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent,
Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light
Weapons in All Its Aspects
June 27, 2022

Agenda item 6: Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, at the national level, the regional level and the global level.

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you, Ambassador Manalo, on your election as the Chair of the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States. Japan highly appreciates your dedication to the preparatory process for this important meeting, and is ready to work with all other delegates towards our substantive outcomes. Please be assured of Japan's full support and cooperation to you throughout this week.

Mr. Chair,

Since the international community initiated the intensive discussions on small arms and light weapons in the 1990s, Japan has been part of its major drive in promoting the international efforts on this matter, having submitted

draft resolutions to the UNGA which paved the way to the adoption of the Programme of Action in 2001.

For more than 20 years since its adoption, the Programme of Action has been playing the central role in enhancing measures to address the SALW issues at the national, regional and global levels. However, the world today continues to face severe challenges relating to SALW, including the illicit trade and diversion to unauthorized recipients, leading to further threats of terrorism and armed conflicts.

Indeed, it is out of such a sense of urgency that Japan, together with Colombia and South Africa, has submitted annual resolutions against the illicit trade of SALW to the UN General Assembly in order to reaffirm the commitment of the international community to further promote the implementation of the Programme of Action, the most recent of which was adopted by consensus in 2021.. I would like to once again thank all of the co-sponsoring and supporting states of the 2021 resolution.

Mr. Chair,

Japan is grateful to you and your team for the draft outcome document that is now in front of us. We consider it a comprehensive document, which will surely serve as a good basis for our substantive discussions.

Japan would like to draw your attention to the diverse circumstances across different regions. Texts that accommodate various conditions in which different states are situated would lead to successful adoption by consensus of our outcome document. Universal expressions in the document are key to acceptance of the document by as many states as possible, which will then lead to the substantive promotion of measures to address the issue of SALW.

Mr. Chair,

Japan would like to take this opportunity to call on all UN Member States to further intensify their efforts to preventing and eradicating the illicit trade and diversion of SALW through implementing the Programme of Action and also to submit their biennial reports to ensure transparency.

Japan sincerely hopes that our discussions will contribute to the enhancement of practical and effective measures to address the SALW issues at the national, regional and global levels.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.