

BMS5: Agenda Item 8  
International Cooperation and Assistance  
Statement by Japan

Mr. Chairman,

Japan has been engaging in international cooperation and assistance in various fields to address the issues of SALW, including stockpile management, weapons collection and destruction, as well as DDR and awareness raising. Japan has contributed approximately 735 million USD over the past decade and will continue to support those activities to mitigate the problems caused by SALW.

In this context, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make several points for the consideration of the Member States.

Firstly, I would like to underscore the gender aspect in international cooperation and assistance. As a matter of fact, the greatest number of victims in armed conflict are women and children. We must, therefore, pay due regard to the needs of women and children in providing assistance, in particular DDR projects. It is also important to facilitate women's full and meaningful participation in policy making, planning and implementation processes related to international cooperation and assistance for PoA and ITI.

Second, I am aware that some states are cautious about conditionalities that donor countries entail in providing assistance. However, it should be noted that the donors have to be accountable to their tax payers about why such assistance is needed, how effectively the resources are being used and what policy goals will be achieved by providing that assistance. To put a certain conditionalities to ensure the high level of accountability, therefore, will, in many cases, help donor Governments justify the maintenance of aid budget from long-term point of view.

Third, we appreciate the establishment by UNODA of the multi-donor funding facility, UNSCAR. We believe it an important funding mechanism to support Member States' implementation efforts of the PoA and the ITI. It is the interest of all member states to strengthen and improve, if necessary, this funding mechanism in order to serve the purpose of the PoA and the ITI.

Fourth, the "Matching Needs and Resources", which is developed by UNODA

and facilitated at the meetings of the Group of Interested States in NY is a very useful tool in realizing effective international cooperation and assistance. In this context, Japan would like to underline the importance of the submission of the biennial national reports with a concrete description about the needs for assistance so that they will be properly reflected in the “Matching Needs and Resources” publication.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the UN Disarmament Fellowship programme is an excellent programme, which Japan has been deeply involved in for over three decades. To date, more than 800 young diplomats or Government officials learnt the importance of disarmament by visiting war-torn countries or actual sites suffered from bombing. In this context, Japan supports the idea to call for the General Assembly to ensure that the UN Disarmament Fellowship programme will adequately take into account the issues arising from illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in a balanced manner. We welcome such a reference in the draft outcome document.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.