Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to thank you and your predecessor for their efforts in preparing for this meeting and drafting the outcome documents.

I have three brief points to make at this juncture.

Firstly, Japan welcomes the recently published UN Secretary General’s comprehensive report, which is useful for us in understanding how new technologies could change the dynamism in our efforts. However, it became clear that such new technologies could bring both positive and negative implications. We, therefore, suggest that an in-depth discussion on these issues should be held at next year’s Meeting of Governmental Experts (MGE), focusing on how we utilize these technologies for better marking, record-keeping, tracing and stockpile management as well as the issue on international cooperation and assistance, including capacity building, as was the case in the 2011 MGE. We, therefore, support paragraphs 26 and 27.

In this connection, I would like to share with others the incident that took place recently in my country. In May this year, a man was arrested on a charge of manufacturing a gun made with a 3D printer. This was the first case in Japan that someone was arrested for producing a 3D printer-made gun in violation of our Law. As is indicated in the SG’s report, such new technologies may pose increasing challenges in the future when such technologies further develop and the cost decreases.

Secondly, as we argued in our Working Paper, the exchange of tracing results among appropriate authorities at the national, regional and international levels are important to prevent further diversion of small arms and light weapons.

In this connection, Japan welcomes recent developments in information sharing among appropriate authorities, such as INTERPOL’s iARM and the US Government’s E-Trace. We would like to encourage utilizing these tools. We also notes with interest in the iTrace project being launched by the Conflict Armament Research.
Thirdly, we also support paragraph 30, because the tracing of small arms and light weapons is particularly important in conflict and post-conflict situations, in light of promoting DDR. We believe that capacity building of those relevant states and Peace Support Operations are essential. We need to bear this in mind when providing assistance to those states and also when discussing the mandate of Peace Support Operations.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.