



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement delivered by Japan
The Eleventh Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
Preparatory Meeting
Agenda 2(c) Working Group on Treaty Universalization (WGTU)
20 May 2025, Geneva

Mr. Co-Chair,

Japan would like to express its appreciation for the continued efforts of Ambassador Foradori and Ambassador Rusu to promote the universalization of the Treaty. Japan attaches great importance to the universalization of the ATT, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. We have engaged with and shared information about the ATT with non-State Parties in the region through various initiatives.

As a part of our initiatives, this April, Japan, together with Australia, co-hosted an outreach event to Geneva based representatives from the Pacific Island states on treaties related to conventional weapons, including the ATT. We appreciate the President, Chairperson of the VTF Selection Committee and Secretariat for your engagement with this. Japan believes that it was a meaningful opportunity for an exchange of views.

While some Pacific Island states expressed positive sentiments towards joining the ATT, at the same time, some highlighted challenges and the need for information sharing and capacity-building support for implementation due to capacity constraints. Others also emphasized the importance of continued outreach and engagement by the States Parties.

It is crucial to understand the political sensitivities and regional circumstances in universalization outreach. A tailored approach that takes into account the challenges and concerns of each country is also important. The number of VTF project applications from the Asia-Pacific region remains low, and further dissemination and outreach to the Asia Pacific States on the VTF is critical.

In this regard, Japan supports the approach proposed by the working paper of the President. Japan also appreciates the knowledge and initiatives of civil society that have been involved in the ATT for many years.

Japan stands ready to continue to work to the universalization of the ATT, together with the President and all other stake holders.

I thank you, Mr Co-Chairs.