

**Statement by the Japanese Delegation
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**

Stockpile Management and Surplus Disposal

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to express my delegation's sincere thanks to the facilitator, Ambassador Streuli, for his detailed presentation as well as the preparation of the working paper. It is Japan's view that one of the main causes of the outflow of small arms and light weapons into society is due to the inadequate management of stockpiles and the improper disposal of surplus arms.

Now I would like to speak briefly on the questions at the end of the discussion paper. Firstly, in relation to raising awareness and ensuring a high priority for stockpile management and surplus disposal, Japan believes that the importance of this issue is not understood because there is a lack of knowledge on how many weapons are actually being diverted from stockpiles. The awareness of and priority for stockpile management and surplus disposal could be heightened if this situation is clarified. Secondly, on the inventory of existing tools, since the CASA Database contains a section on best practices, one suggestion is for each country to draft tailor-made guidelines itself by making reference to this section. Thirdly, concerning how to ensure that requesting states find their way through international assistance procedures, Japan considers States that demonstrate ownership and make self-efforts utilize assistance effectively, and we prioritize support to these States. Fourthly, in relation to a protocol, we think crafting an international instrument of some kind is of great importance. At the same time, however, since this matter is intimately related to the security of each State, and as the definition of "surplus" is a difficult issue, we suggest that the an appropriate form of instrument could be studied, based on the outcomes of the recently concluded GGE on ammunition.

I wish to take this opportunity now to introduce Japan's experiences of stockpile management and surplus disposal in Cambodia. For that purpose, with your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to pass the floor over to my colleague(Mr. Kida), who has a working experience in Cambodia.

I was a Project Manager of an implementation team for “Peace Building and Comprehensive Small Arms Management Programme in Cambodia,” which were funded by the Government of Japan, from 2003 to 2007, and have an experience to run the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) program on the ground. The Programme contained projects of stockpile management of SALW legally possessed by Cambodian police and surplus disposal of un-necessary SALW including collected illegal weapons.

Lack of the stockpile management and the surplus disposal causes physical outflow of SALW. In addition, when authorities and security forces cannot manage their SALW properly, civilians lose confidence to capacity and moral of the authorities and security forces as indirect result. The lack of confidence generates an idea that the civilians need to protect their security by their own. This is exactly one of demand factors of SALW.

Through the programme, not only the stockpile management of police weapons was improved, but confidence of civilians to police and government was built due to provision of training of police officers for their capacity building. It was achieved by the support of Japan and its implementation team as well as strong initiative of the Government of Cambodia toward proper stockpile management of SALW.

Surplus and collected illegal SALW were burned to destroy at weapons destruction ceremonies with participation of a plenty of civilians, so that they never be used again. Civilians witnessed “the Flame of Peace” destroying SALW, and determined their farewell to SALW which used to be around during and after civil war.

One country may cause negative and serious influence on regional security, especially to surrounding countries, if it does not have enough capacity of stockpile management. Therefore, it is one of ideas to seek cooperation through regional organizations as efforts of international community.

Thank you.