

UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in  
Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA)  
Sixth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS6)

Working paper by Japan  
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Japan is pleased to submit the following ideas and suggestions for the conduct of BMS 6 and the consideration of its outcome document. This working paper is based on the informal discussions that were held in New York and proposed BMS6 agenda items.

1. BMS6: Agenda and working method

- Japan expects that discussions at BMS6 will be reported at the Third Review Conference in 2018 and be valuable for effective implementation of the PoA and ITI.
- Japan supports the established working method that a “zero draft” outcome document will be circulated well in advance of BMS6, and that discussions will go into substantive matters without having a general debate or a high-level segment at the meeting.
- Considering an important role that regional and sub-regional organizations play in effective implementation of the PoA and ITI, Japan supports proposed Agenda Items.
- International cooperation focusing on technical cooperation is one of the main pillars for the implementation of the PoA and ITI. Japan supports the inclusion of international cooperation as a main agenda item.

2. 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 – including through regional and sub-regional arrangements and organizations – and at the global level, and in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- We should continue to encourage interested States and regional and international organizations to convene regional meetings in preparation for, and/or to follow up on the PoA meetings. We note that the importance of such regional approaches have been continuously emphasized in such documents as annual omnibus resolutions as well as the Second Review Conference Outcome Documents.
- We should reaffirm our commitment at the Second Review Conference that

establishing or strengthening, where appropriate, sub-regional or regional cooperation, coordination and information-sharing mechanisms, and enhancing the exchange of tracing results between appropriate authorities at the national, regional and international levels is important in order to prevent further diversion of small arms and light weapons. (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4: Annex I, section II, paragraph 3 (e); and Annex II, paragraph 2 (d))

- It should also be noted that Article 11 (5) of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) provides for its States Parties to share relevant information on effective measures to address diversion. We should encourage States that have not done so to consider concluding international instruments such as the ATT. The challenge before us now is how to effectively implement Article 11 (5) of the ATT while bearing in mind general principles of cooperation in tracing in paragraphs 14 and 15 of the ITI. Therefore, it should be encouraged, as an initial step, that at the BMS6, States share their experiences and good practices on exchanging tracing results bilaterally or at regional level, as appropriate.

- We should continue to explore synergies with the work of other relevant international instruments, such as the ATT, and the UN Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA), including its substantive work and reporting mechanism. As an interim measure, it could be useful to keep relevant parties and secretariats engaged with each other and encourage relevant organizations to participate in the PoA meetings.

### 3. Consideration of the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, including recent developments in small arms and light weapons technology and their implications for the International Tracing Instrument;

- The emergence of new technologies such as modular weapons systems, and increasing use of polymer components will inevitably have an impact on the management of small arms and light weapons. It is therefore important to pay due consideration to an issue of whether and how marking and tracing of weapons would address the impact caused by such new technologies. We would like to suggest that this matter should be taken as a matter for consideration and discussion continuously. Though ITI's paragraph 7 stipulates that the choice of methods for marking small arms and light weapons is a national prerogative, ITI requests in its paragraph 8 that States require unique marking at the time of manufacture for each small arm or light weapon under their jurisdiction or control, or that they maintain alternative unique user-friendly marking.

- In order to deal with such new technologies, it is important to share, and improve an exchange of information on best practices in, and the results of, marking and tracing at the bilateral, regional and global levels.
- In preventing arms diversion and improving accountability over arms flows, it is necessary to emphasize the importance of effective national controls over marking, recordkeeping and tracing of small arms continuously.
- Japan values that UNIDIR held a conference on capacity building on Weapon Identification and Tracing in Conflict and Post-Conflict Setting including identification of arms and ammunition as well as illicit weapons at the MGE2.

4. Consideration of international cooperation and assistance for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and International tracing Instrument, including capacity-building.

(1) Utilizing national reports for effective international cooperation and assistance

- As reconfirmed at the Second Review Conference, the submission of voluntary national reporting on the implementation of the PoA should be synchronized with biennial meetings of States and review conferences. Japan is of the opinion that such an effort will increase the submission rate and improve the utility of reports, as well as contribute substantively to meeting discussions.
- Japan considers that a voluntary national reporting is important to follow up on the PoA as a means of assessing overall implementation efforts of States concerned. A report would suggest challenges and opportunities that States would face in their implementation, and could accordingly facilitate international cooperation and assistance to States in need. However it should be noted with concern that the number of reports submission has declined from 109 in 2008 to 76 in 2014. Considering the importance of national reports, it is necessary to encourage as many States as possible to submit their national reports.
- As pointed out in the Chairman's summary of MGE2, it is better to consider the further utility of national reports submitted on the implementation of the PoA and the ITI for the provision of information on "matching needs with resources." Japan suggests that this point should be further discussed.
- Considering an important role that regional and sub-regional organizations have played in assisting States in need in implementing relevant instruments such as the PoA and ITI, Japan would like to suggest that we should consider measures so that those organizations could play such a role.

For example, the UN Regional Centers for Peace and Disarmament could be more

actively engaged. These centers facilitate regional cooperation and assist States in the implementation of the PoA and ITI by conducting national capacity building programmes for small arms and light weapons for States concerned and organizing training courses for national arms destructions. Events such as workshop on building national capacity in small arms and light weapons control are very useful. Noting the limited resources, we should explore possibility for further cooperation among States which could provide assistance and regional organizations.

- For international cooperation and assistance, the UNSCAR is a useful funding mechanism that assists States in the implementation of the PoA and ITI. In order to enhance transparency in its activities and funding, all UN Member States should be kept informed about the progress of UNSCAR, including at the BMS6.

(2) Japan's assistance related to small arms and light weapons

- Between January 2014 and December 2015, Japan provided assistance related to small arms and light weapons, amounting to 354 million Dollars.
- The development of a system that allows police-led initiatives is crucial to improve small arms and light weapons control. Since small arms and light weapons control is closely linked to issues such as public security, governance, delay in rural development, and unemployment, it is desirable to have a cross-sectoral approach and make necessary efforts as part of the security sector/system reform, governance reform, and agricultural development, among others.
- When conducting police reforms, developing countries are often interested in introducing high technology tools. Given that these tools require careful, steady criminal investigations by police officers, Japan has been conducting training programmes, which include visits to the scientific police research center of national police, fingerprint center, and command and control center in Japan.
- For the introduction of high technology, it is necessary to first determine whether human resources need to be developed or the system improved before considering their technical and maintenance ability (including climate condition).

5. Other issues and topics of relevance for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument.

- Deeply concerned about the negative impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, children, youth, elderly and persons with disabilities, Japan would like to call for improved understanding of the different concerns and needs of these groups. Japan would also like to underscore the need to further integrate the role

of women into efforts to combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

- We should facilitate the participation and representation of women in small arms policymaking, taking into account relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the General Assembly. We should also explore means to eliminate the negative impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women.
- In order to address the special needs of children affected by armed conflict, in particular their reunification with their families, we should promote reintegration into society and appropriate rehabilitation.
- Japan welcomes the important contribution of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to the PoA process, including raising awareness and assisting States. We note the important role of industry in the PoA process, including in ensuring that the process is fully informed by relevant developments.