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Statement by H.E. Ambassador Toshio SANO
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament

Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to
The Convention on Prohibition or Restriction on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons
Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

14 November 2013, Geneva

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time to take the floor, let me begin by congratulating you on your assumption of this important post as President to the Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the CCW (Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons). I assure you of my Delegation's full support and cooperation throughout your tenure.

Mr. President,

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the CCW's entry into force in 1983. Since then, the Convention has developed and made certain progress according to the evolving risk and transcending security climate in the international community. Threats, however, continue to emerge and the significance of this Convention is growing. With major key players on board, the value of this Convention should not be underestimated and further strengthening of collective efforts through this framework are expected.

Mr. President,

Japan believes the universalization of this Convention is the utmost importance, and we

warmly welcome the new States Parties since 2012, Kuwait and Zambia. Japan fully supports “An Accelerated Plan of Action on Universalization of the Convention and its annexed Protocols” which was adopted at the Fourth Review Conference. We are determined to promote the Convention, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region through bilateral and multilateral opportunities. We hope all States not yet party would consider ratifying or acceding to it as soon as possible.

With regard to the effective use of the budget, Japan stresses the following two points. First, the meeting schedule should be appropriately streamlined, taking into account not only its necessity but also its efficiency. Second, we welcome the President’s proposals on suspending summary records and the submission of credentials.

Furthermore, Japan recognizes the growing interests in the international community regarding the issue of lethal autonomous robotics (LARs). We think it is useful to start a discussion about the basic elements of such weapons, including their definition. Since this issue contains a variety of elements including human rights, legal, technical and arms control factors, the CCW offers a suitable venue where we can receive diverse and balanced analysis and reports from these experts.

Japan looks forward to dealing with this issue at the informal meeting of experts within the framework of the Convention. When such a meeting is take place, we believe three days will be sufficient to kick off an initial discussion as a first step.

I thank you, Mr. President.