Statement by H.E. Mr. Mari Amano
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to the Conference on Disarmament

Fourth Review Conference 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

Geneva, 14 November 2011
Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the chairmanship of the Fourth Review Conference of the CCW. I wish to assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation.

Mr. President,

This Review Conference provides a precious opportunity for States Parties to take stock of the past activities within the CCW as well as to produce a positive outcome which will strengthen both the credibility and the reliability of the CCW. Japan believes that the CCW process has been the most relevant and appropriate multilateral forum to discuss issues related to the regulation, restriction or prohibition of certain types of conventional weapons. Moreover, it is the only universal legally-binding instrument that addresses the urgent needs of protecting civilians and combatants from the effects of certain types of weapons, by striking a balance between humanitarian concerns and security requirements. For this reason, Japan attaches particular importance to the implementation of the Convention and its protocols in addition to the respective work within the framework of the CCW. Based upon this concept, Japan has maintained an active involvement in the relevant activities.

Mr. President,

One of the most important issues Japan has been actively supporting within the framework of the CCW over the past years is the establishment of an effective and meaningful protocol on cluster munitions that includes the major producers and possessors of this weapon. In this regard, it is regrettable that there is still a difference of opinion over some important points among the States Parties, and that we have not reached an agreement on a new protocol which responds appropriately to the humanitarian concerns caused by cluster munitions.
Nevertheless, Japan remains hopeful that intensive but constructive discussions in the course of this Review Conference will lead States Parties to conclude the negotiations by putting a priority on our main objective of ending civilian suffering caused by this inhumane weapon.

Mr. President,

What is also crucial for Japan is the promotion of universal adherence to the CCW. Since the Third Review Conference, 11 states have become States Parties. We consider this to be a very positive step for all parties. Broad and comprehensive participation by states is an essential element for increasing the effectiveness of the CCW. In this context, Japan has been actively engaged in the activities to promote the universalization of the CCW, with a particular focus on the Asia Pacific region. Japan will thereby continue to make its utmost efforts to extend the coverage of the CCW to more states. In parallel with promoting further universalization, Japan will also pay close attention to other relevant treaties regulating similar types of weapons, such as the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Mr. President,

Japan sincerely hopes that this Review Conference will be productive and contribute to further reinforcement of the CCW. We remain committed to participating in and contributing to the discussions which will take place during this Review Conference, with a belief that the sincere efforts of the international community can result in a valuable outcome which will reflect the spirit of the CCW.

Thank you very much for your attention.