

Third Annual Conference of States parties to Protocol V of the CCW
Statement by India ; 9 November 2009

Mr. President,

India is privileged to hold the presidency of Third Conference of High Contracting Parties of Protocol V. We would like to convey our appreciation to Ambassador Borisovas of Lithuania for his diligent efforts for ensuring the successful conduct of the Second Conference.

India is fully committed to the CCW Convention and the humanitarian principles that it embodies. India had held the Presidency of CCW in 2002-3 when the Protocol was negotiated. We were among the group of first 20 countries which ratified the protocol that led to its entry into force. We firmly believe that implementation of commitments undertaken in Protocol V should make a real difference on the ground.

We are pleased to note that the number of High Contracting Parties to this Protocol has increased from 48, at the time of the Second Conference to 61 this year. Universalization should continue to be a priority in the coming year as well.

Timely implementation of obligations contained in Protocol V is of high significance. This includes submission of national reports. Following the adoption of the revised Generic Electronic Template for effective implementation of Article 4 (Recording, Retaining and Transmission of Information), India is in the process of taking follow up action in terms of its national adoption and dissemination in its armed forces.

India pays particular attention to the use of genetic preventive measures for purposes of ensuring safety and security of munitions for the entire life cycle - design, development, production, storage, transportation, periodic checks for reliability etc. The GICHD handbook 'A Guide to Ammunition Storage' and the UN Classification System of Hazard Divisions and Compatibility Groups have been used extensively by our armed forces.

We would like to convey our appreciation to all the coordinators for their efforts in preparing for this annual Conference. The working papers and proposals prepared by them are a very good basis of discussions. As this protocol is still in its early stage, we should be mindful of the importance of early universal adherence and full implementation of existing obligations of the Protocol. We will also like to take this opportunity to thank the CCW Secretariat for the work they have put in for success of this meeting.

Thank you.