

**Statement by Ambassador Sujata Mehta,
Permanent Representative of India to the CD, Geneva
Fifth Annual Conference of States Parties to Protocol V of the CCW
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Mr President, my delegation is happy to see a distinguished representative of Belarus preside over the Fifth Annual Conference of State Parties to Protocol V. Let me also congratulate the two Vice Presidents for their election to the bureau. We pledge you our full cooperation in reaching a successful outcome.

2. India is fully committed to the CCW Convention and the humanitarian principles that it embodies. We are committed to taking all necessary measures to fully implement our obligations under the CCW and its Protocols, including Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War. Since ratifying the Protocol in May 2005 and its entry into force in November 2006, India has taken the requisite measures for its implementation. These are detailed in India's National Reports.

3. We are happy to note that the number of parties to the Protocol has increased to 76. We would like to complement the outgoing President, Ambassador Peter Woolcott of Australia, for his efforts in this regard. Like other colleagues, let me also welcome Argentina, Brazil, Cameroon, Panama, Poland and St Vincent and the Grenadines to the Protocol V family. Universalisation should continue to be a priority in the coming years alongside timely and full implementation of obligations contained in Protocol V. This would make a real difference on the ground in addressing the humanitarian impact of the Explosive Remnants of War.

4. Our first meeting in 2007 established an informal mechanism on implementation in the form of a Meeting of Experts. The Meetings of Experts in 2009, 2010 and on 6-8 April 2011 in Geneva have helped us advance our understanding of the various aspects of the Protocol's implementation, notably on Clearance, removal or destruction of explosive remnants of war; Victim assistance; Cooperation and assistance, and Requests for assistance; Recording, retaining and transmission of information; National reporting; as well as Generic preventive measures.

5. With regard to the work of the Coordinator on Cooperation and assistance, and Requests for assistance, I wish to share that pursuant to Articles 7 and 8 of the Protocol, my government has decided to assist Belarus in its efforts for ERW clearance, including through the provision of equipment.

6. In conclusion, Mr. President, we are thankful to the six Coordinators for leading the discussions on important implementation issues. We also thank them for their reports to this meeting. They contain a number of useful ideas for discussions on our future work. We would also like to convey our appreciation to the CCW ISU for their excellent work in support of the implementation efforts of the states parties.

Thank you.