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**PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

**13th Annual Conference of High Contracting States Parties
to Amended Protocol II of the CCW
11 November 2011, Geneva**

STATEMENT

By

**Ambassador Sujata Mehta
Permanent Representative of India
to the Conference on Disarmament**

**Plenary Statement by Ambassador Sujata Mehta
Permanent Representative of India to the CD, Geneva
13th Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended
Protocol II of the CCW, 11 November 2011**

Mr. President, my delegation congratulates you on your assumption of the chair of the 13th Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II of the CCW. We acknowledge the efforts made by your predecessor and we pledge you our full support in order to achieve further progress under your chairmanship.

2. India supports the approach enshrined in Amended Protocol II of striking a balance between humanitarian concerns on landmines and legitimate defence requirements, particularly of States with long borders. We support the vision of a world free of the threat of landmines with mine survivors fully integrated into their society and with individuals and communities free to pursue development in a safe and secure environment. We believe that the availability of militarily effective alternative technologies that can perform cost effectively the defensive function of anti personnel landmines will facilitate the achievement of this goal.

3. The universalization and full implementation of Amended Protocol II, including regular submission of National Reports, is critical to addressing humanitarian concerns on landmines. India has fulfilled its obligations under the Amended Protocol II related inter alia to non-production of non-detectable mines as well as rendering all its anti-personnel mines detectable. India is also observing a moratorium on the export and transfer of landmines. Information regarding our obligations has been disseminated to the armed forces and whenever and wherever the army has used mines for defensive military operations, they have been laid within fenced perimeters and well-marked. GPS and GIS technologies are being used for assistance in recording the position of mines, which have been cleared post-operations by trained troops. Mine victims are assisted with rehabilitation inter alia through financial compensation, employment and health care. India's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities underscores the importance it attaches to the issue of victim assistance.

4. Technical cooperation and exchange of experience in mine clearance technology, equipment and training is critical to the full implementation of the Amended Protocol II. We would also like to stress the importance of development and sharing of technology to protect civilians against the indiscriminate use of mines as well as for mine clearance. India has extended assistance to international de-mining and rehabilitation efforts including as part of UN peace-keeping operations to which India is a leading contributor. Indian military personnel have carried out de-mining operations in Cambodia, Angola

and Afghanistan and India has provided support to two NGO groups to undertake mine clearance in erstwhile conflict affected areas in Sri Lanka.

5. Mr President, allow me to turn to the reports of the two friends of the President, Mr. Abdul Razak Laassel of Morocco and Mr. Reto Wollenman of Switzerland – for which we thank them. We support the recommendation by the Friend of the President on IEDs to continue consideration of this important issue in the CCW framework. IEDs are being used by terrorists and non-state actors across the globe and are causing a large number of casualties with growing humanitarian impact. We agree with the Friend of the President that there would be value in compiling guidelines and best practices to add to existing work aimed at combating the diversion or illicit use of material which can be used for IEDs. In this regard we could focus on identifying key elements in the supply chain of licit material that need to be prohibited or more effectively regulated by parties. Alongside any possible contribution to the review and implementation of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG), we can consider best practices and other recommendations on marking and tracing of key components, strengthening security of stockpiles and their transportation, preventing unauthorised manufacture and trafficking, stricter export controls and prosecution and extradition of offenders. While we would welcome in-depth consideration of IED issues, exchange of experience, drawing up of best practices or other agreed measures, we do not wish to dilute the focus of our efforts with attempts to bring in politically charged agendas.

6. With regard to the report of the Friend of the President on the operation and status of the Protocol, we agree with his call for intensification of efforts to implement the Plan of Action to promote the universality of the Convention and its Protocols. Second, while we support continued consideration of issues related to the termination of original Protocol II with the consent of the High Contracting Parties, it might be useful to consider a decision by the HCPs to the CCW affirming that Protocol II is no longer available for ratification and that in future states can only ratify Amended Protocol II. Finally, as an informal implementation mechanism, while the Group of Experts can continue to assist in building understanding and experience sharing on issues related to implementation, including reporting, the responsibility for the discharge of their obligations, and any assessment thereof, lies with the States Parties to the Amended Protocol II.

7. Mr. President, India continues to believe that Amended Protocol II is a unique instrument in view of its scope as well as its membership. We support all efforts to carry forward the process of its more effective implementation. We look forward to working with you, the Friends of the President and the ISU in this regard.

Thank you.