



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

**Convention on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of Certain
Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be excessively
injurious or to have indiscriminate effects (CCW)**

November 12, 2009

STATEMENT

BY

**Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao
Permanent Representative of India
to the Conference on Disarmament**

Mr President,

It is a pleasure to convey our congratulations to you on assuming the Presidency of the Meeting of States Parties to the CCW Convention. You can be assured of the full support of the Indian delegation.

2. Last year we marked the 25th Anniversary of the EIF of the CCW Convention, which remains the only forum of a universal character that brings together all the main users and producers of major conventional weapons. This Convention provides an agreed framework for taking forward the international community's priorities in the field of conventional arms control, regulation of armed conflict and strengthening international humanitarian law.

3. At the Meeting of States Parties in 2007, India proposed a broad based dialogue to consider a new and strengthened format of the CCW Convention that would by common agreement, reaffirm and strengthen the application of international law in regulating armed conflict and protecting its victims. India attaches high importance to the Plan of Action and the Sponsorship Programme to promote the universality of the CCW. India believes that States Parties are primarily responsible for the full and effective implementation of their obligations under the Convention and the Protocols to which they are bound.

Mr President,

4. India shares the international community's concerns about the humanitarian impact of the irresponsible use of Cluster Munitions. The use of Cluster Munitions is lawful and legitimate if such use takes into account existing International Humanitarian Law. Therefore, India supported negotiation of an instrument in the CCW consistent with the mandate of the GGE that strikes a balance between military and humanitarian concerns. It is clear, for various reasons, that a comprehensive, universal ban on Cluster Munitions is not within the reach of the international community, either in the CCW or outside.

5. The Group of Governmental Experts on Cluster Munitions held two formal and one informal meeting this year. The Draft Protocol on Cluster Munitions presented by the Chair of the GGE in his personal capacity requires further discussion. If there is a general desire to continue discussions in 2010 for a protocol on Cluster Munitions on the basis of the existing mandate, India will not stand in the way. However, adequate time must be allocated for in-depth and comprehensive consideration of all issues

pertinent to the draft Protocol if we are to bridge the considerable differences that still persist.

6. India supports strengthening the Secretariat for the CCW Convention and its protocols. We take this opportunity to convey our deep appreciation to Mr Peter Kolarov and his team for the excellent support extended to the High Contracting Parties. While we have no objection to the establishment of an Implementation Support Unit, the UNODA in Geneva deserves greater support and assistance from the regular UN budget as well.

Mr President,

7. We commend you for the consultations that you have undertaken in preparation for this meeting. India remains committed to the CCW Process and, would, therefore, spare no effort in contributing to its success.
