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**Permanent Mission of India  
to the Conference on Disarmament**

**Sixth Conference of High Contracting Parties to  
Protocol V**

**November 12, 2012  
Geneva**

**Statement by**

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

**Statement by Ambassador Sujata Mehta, Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva at the Sixth Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V of the CCW, 12-13 November, 2012, Geneva**

Mr. President, my delegation is most happy to see you in the chair of the Sixth Annual Conference of States Parties to Protocol V. I assure you of the full support of my delegation in discharging your responsibilities. Let me also congratulate other members of the bureau on their election.

Mr. President, India is fully committed to the CCW and the humanitarian principles enshrined in the Convention. We have ratified all five Protocols of the Convention as well as amended Article I. We ratified Protocol V in May 2005 and have taken requisite measures for the Protocol's implementation since its entry into force in November 2006. The measures taken by India to implement obligations under Protocol V are detailed in our national annual reports.

India has shouldered various responsibilities in relation to Protocol V which is indicative of the high importance we attach to this Protocol. We were CCW President in 2002-03 when Protocol V was negotiated and concluded. We were privileged to preside over the third annual Conference of Protocol V in 2009. We have also coordinated the work on Article 4 Generic Electronic Template and National Reporting. We believe that the implementation of the Protocol has made solid progress inter alia through the informal mechanism of the Meeting of Experts.

We believe that universalization should continue to be a priority under Protocol V in coming years alongwith timely and fully implementation of obligations contained in Protocol. This would make a real difference on the ground in addressing the humanitarian impact of explosive remnants of war. We are happy to note that the number of parties to the Protocol has risen to 81. We would like to compliment you for your efforts in this regard and

welcome South Africa, Lao PDR, Turkmenistan and Burundi on becoming parties to the Protocol.

We commend the work of the Coordinators who led the discussions at the Meeting of Experts in April 2012 on different issues related to the implementation of the Protocol including clearance, removal or destruction of ERW; cooperation and assistance; recording, retaining and transmission of information; generic preventive measures; victim assistance and national reporting. Their reports contain a number of useful ideas for taking forward our work on important implementation issues. We would be conveying our comments on the recommendations proposed by the Coordinators at relevant moments during our meeting. With regard to cooperation and assistance, we would like to share that we are engaged with Belarus to provide assistance in efforts for ERW clearance, including through the provision of equipment.

Let me end by extending a word of appreciation to the Implementation Support Unit in supporting our work.

Thank you.