

Intervention by Ambassador Sujata Mehta, Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament under *Agenda Item 4* at the 14th Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties of Amended Protocol II of CCW, Geneva, 14 November 2012

Madam President,

Please accept the felicitations of my delegation on your election to this post and assure you of the full cooperation of my delegation in the discharge of your responsibilities.

In the view of my delegation one of the participants present here has no basis to be so seated in any specific category.

As per our reading of the Rules of Procedure such attendance amounts to misuse of what the Rules of Procedure permit - there are specific relevant and competent entities whose participation has been mandated by the Rules. Others are covered in Rule 41 and in that context the touchstone is special competence. This was the basis of specific arrangements in past sessions.

While my delegation will not pursue this matter further at this stage we would request you to arrange the consultations required to resolve this matter ahead of the next meeting in April 2013 so that unnecessary controversy over marginal issues is avoided and we can focus on our important work.

Thank you.