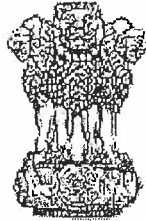


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**PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

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

STATEMENT

BY

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

November 22, 2010

Mr President, my delegation is pleased to see you assume the Presidency of the Fourth Annual Conference of State Parties to Protocol V. It was India's privilege to be the President of this Conference last year and we pledge our fullest support to you and the two Vice Presidents, the distinguished representatives of Pakistan and Slovakia in ensuring the success of your efforts.

India is fully committed to the CCW Convention and the humanitarian principles that it embodies. We are committed to taking all requisite measures to fully implement our obligations under the CCW and its Protocols, including Protocol V on ERW. India held the presidency of the CCW States Parties in 2002-03 when this Protocol was negotiated and concluded and subsequently, in 2004-05, we coordinated the Working Group on ERW. 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 enumerated in India's National Reports.

We are happy to note that the number of parties to the Protocol has increased to 69. Universalisation should continue to be a priority in the coming years alongside timely and full implementation of obligations contained in Protocol V which we firmly believe would make a real difference on the ground in addressing the humanitarian impact of the Explosive Remnants of War.

Our first meeting in 2007 established an informal mechanism on implementation in the form of a Meeting of Experts. The five Coordinators and Friend of the Coordinator, who led the discussions during the Meeting of Experts held in Geneva on 22 to 24 April 2009, 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.

We would like to convey our appreciation to the Coordinators for their hard work in preparing working papers and proposals for this meeting. They contain a number of useful ideas for discussions on our future work. As we are still in an early stage in the life of this protocol, we should be mindful of the importance of early universal adherence and full implementation of its obligations. Our appreciation also extends to the CCW Implementation Support Unit for their excellent work in support of this meeting.

Thank you.