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

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties  
to Amended Protocol II**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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

**November 24, 2010**

My delegation is pleased to see a distinguished representative of Venezuela chair the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II of the CCW. We appreciate the efforts made by your predecessor Ambassador Mazeiks of Latvia as well as the two friends of the President, Mr. Abdul Razak Laassel of Morocco and Mr. Reto Wollenman of Switzerland to strengthen the implementation of the Amended Protocol II. We pledge you our cooperation in efforts to achieve further progress under your chairmanship.

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.

We attach importance to the full implementation of Amended Protocol II, its universalization as well the regular submission of National Reports. 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 systems are used for assistance in recording the position of mines. Post-operations these mines have been cleared 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.

Mr. President, technical cooperation and exchange of experience in mine clearance technology, equipment and training is critical to the full implementation of the Amended Protocol II. 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.

We support the recommendation by the Friend of the President on IEDs to continue consideration of this important issue. IEDs are being used by terrorists and non-state actors across the globe and are causing a large number of casualties with a deep socio-economic impact. We agree with the Friend of the President that there would be value in exploring guidelines and best practices to prohibit the diversion or illicit use of material which can be used for IEDs. We also support the intention to focus on identifying key elements in the supply chain that need to be prohibited or more effectively regulated by parties. These measures can include 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. Our aim should be to dovetail efforts in the CCW context with international efforts to counter terrorism and illicit trade in conventional weapons in other multilateral forums. We would welcome in-depth consideration of IED issues, exchange of experience, drawing up of best practices or other agreed measures.

Further, my delegation commends the efforts 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 Protocol. We would also like to stress the importance of development and sharing of technology to protect civilians against the indiscriminate use of mines. We support the continued consideration of the issues highlighted by him.

In conclusion, India believes 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 in the lead to the Fourth Review Conference of the CCW to be held next year.

Thank you.

