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

**Second Review Conference of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

Cartagena , December 01, 2009

STATEMENT

BY

**Prabhat Kumar
Counsellor
Permanent Mission of India
to the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva**

Madam President,

Allow me to felicitate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Second Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personal Mines and on their Destruction. We are pleased that Columbia with which India has strong ties and friendship is hosting this Conference. India is not a signatory to the Convention and is participating as an observer.

India supports the vision of a world free of threat of landmines where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to development, and where mine survivors are fully integrated into their societies. Since 1997, India has discontinued the production of non-detectable anti-personnel mines and has observed a moratorium in their transfer. On landmines, India supports the approach enshrined in the Amended Protocol II of CCW, to which it is a State Party, which addresses the defence requirements of States, especially those with long borders. The availability of militarily effective alternative technologies that can perform, cost effectively, the defensive role of anti-personnel landmines will considerably facilitate the goal of complete elimination of landmines. The CCW process provides the appropriate legal framework for balancing military necessity and humanitarian concerns of States.

The Government of India has taken several measures to address the address the humanitarian concerns arising out of indiscriminate use of landmines. Information regarding our obligations under Amended Protocol II has been disseminated to the Armed Forces by its inclusion in the syllabi of military courses, through seminars and distribution of handbooks, etc. Information on mines is disseminated among the civilian population of the area and the media in order to increase public awareness and avoid civilian casualties. Whenever and wherever the army has used mines for defensive military operations, the mines have been laid within fenced perimeters and well-marked. GPS and GIS based systems are used for assistance in recording of the position of mines. Post-operations, these mines have been cleared by trained troops.

Despite the indiscriminate use of landmines and Improvised Explosives Devices by terrorists and terrorists organisations India's armed

forces themselves have not used mines for maintenance of law and order or in internal security situations, or even in counter-insurgency or for combating terrorists and terrorist organisations. The Corps of Army Engineers in India continue to aid civil authorities in defusing and clearing such devices. Concerted efforts have been made to rehabilitate casualties from such cases by providing monetary compensation, employment and assistance, including prosthetics for mine victims. India ratified the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities in October 2007.

Madam President,

Some reports have commented on increase in casualties in India perceived to be related to landmines. Such reports are misplaced as they do not distinguish between casualties caused by landmines and improvised explosive devices. I would also like to reiterate India has not used landmines for counter-insurgency or counter terrorist operations or for maintenance of law and order or internal security situations. However, mines are used by terrorists groups and Indian security forces have recovered mines of foreign origin from these groups.

India supports technical cooperation and exchanges in mine clearance technology, equipment. India remains committed to international de-mining and rehabilitation efforts and is ready to provide its technical assistance and expertise in this area.

India is one of the largest contributors to the UN peacekeeping operations the world over. Besides participating in national, regional and international workshops and seminars, we have carried out de-mining operations in Cambodia, Angola and Afghanistan. In Cambodia, we deployed de-mining supervising teams in 1991-93. This year, the training for the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) was carried out from 15 January 2009 to 04 February 2009 in Cambodia. After training several de-mining platoons, de-mining of specific areas was entrusted to these teams, resulting in hundreds of square kilometers of land being cleared of mines. Responding to their request we are training the Cambodian army de-mining team on an annual basis. The trained Cambodian army detachments have undertaken de-mining operations in Sudan under the aegis of UNMIS, starting from mid-2007. We have also gifted de-mining equipment to Cambodia in September last year. In Angola, we had undertaken large scale de-mining operations under the UN umbrella in 1995. The Indian

Government has successfully completed the construction of road Zaranj to Delaram in Afghanistan which involved extensive de-mining operations as the road had been heavily mined.

Madam President,

The humanitarian concern which is espoused by the AP landmine Ban Convention has universal appeal. India has therefore participated in all meetings of the Convention, including the Standing Committee Meetings since the Nairobi Review Conference.

We wish the Review Conference all success.

I thank you,