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

**The Tenth Meeting of States Parties to the  
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,  
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on  
their Destruction**

**November 29 – December 3, 2010  
Geneva**

**Statement by**

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Permanent Mission of India to  
the Conference on Disarmament**

Mr. President,

I am pleased to take the floor at this meeting on behalf of India as an Observer. My delegation congratulates you on your assumption of the presidency of the Tenth Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention.

India believes that global measures on conventional arms control contribute significantly to international peace, security and development as well as to the goal of general and complete disarmament.

India supports the vision of a world free of the 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. We are fully committed to the eventual elimination of anti-personnel landmines. The availability of militarily effective alternative technologies that can perform cost effectively the defensive function of APLs will facilitate the achievement of this goal.

India is a High Contracting Party to the Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. We support the approach enshrined in Amended Protocol II which addresses the legitimate defence requirements of states with long borders. We have fully implemented our obligations arising from this protocol. Since 1997, India has discontinued the production of non-detectable anti-personnel landmines and observed a moratorium on their export and transfer. India has rendered all its anti-personnel mines detectable.

We have undertaken a number of measures to address the humanitarian concerns on the use of landmines in accordance with the international humanitarian law. Information regarding our obligations from AP-II has been disseminated to the armed forces. Whenever and wherever our defence forces have 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 and post operation these mines have been cleared by trained troops. Mine victims are assisted with rehabilitation inter alia through financial compensation, employment and health care including by providing prosthetics for mine victims. India's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities underscores the importance it attaches to the issue of victim assistance.

India's armed forces have not used mines for maintenance of law and order or in internal security situations, or in counter-insurgency or counter-terrorism operations. However, mines and Improvised Explosive Devices are used by terrorist groups harming

Indian security forces and civilians. The specialized units of armed forces continue to aid civil authorities in defusing and clearing such devices.

We are contributing to international de-mining and rehabilitation efforts, including as part of UN peacekeeping operations to which India is a leading contributor. Our military personnel have carried out demining operations in Cambodia, Angola and Afghanistan. We have provided support to two NGO groups to undertake mine clearance in the erstwhile conflict affected areas of Sri Lanka.

Mr. President,

In conclusion I would like to underline our commitment to the humanitarian ideals enshrined in the Ottawa Convention. It is for this reason that we have been participating as an Observer in the meetings of the Ottawa Convention since the Review Conference held in November 2004 in Nairobi.

Thank you.