

India

Enclosure 2

Draft Statement for 11th 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, Phnom Penh, 28 November - 2 December, 2011

Mr. President,

The Indian delegation would like to join other colleagues in congratulating you on the assumption of Presidency of the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Landmine Ban Convention. India is participating in this meeting as an Observer.

At the outset India would like to express sympathy with the people of Cambodia who have suffered immensely from the scourge of landmines. We stand ready to help Cambodia in whatever way we can in alleviating the suffering caused from landmines.

Mr. President,

India supports the vision of a world free of the threat of anti-personnel landmines. The humanitarian ideals espoused by the APLC regarding anti-personnel landmines have universal appeal. Our presence in this meeting is an expression of our commitments to these ideals. India would continue to address the humanitarian suffering caused by anti-personnel landmines, in consonance with our legitimate security concerns.

India has taken a number of measures to address the humanitarian concerns regarding the use of anti-personnel landmines in accordance with international humanitarian law. India is a High Contracting Party to the Amended Protocol II on Prohibition or Restrictions on the use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. India has fully implemented its obligations arising from this Protocol. Since 1997, India has discontinued the production of non-detectable anti-personnel landmines and has observed a moratorium on their export and transfer. India has rendered all its anti-personnel landmines detectable. India also observes a moratorium on export of landmines.

India's armed forces have not used mines for maintenance of law and order or

in internal security situations or even for counter-insurgency or counter-terrorism operations even though our security forces and civilians have been the target of indiscriminate use of improvised explosive devices and mines. The Corps of Army Engineers continues to aid civil authorities in defusing and clearing such devices.

Whenever and wherever the army has used mines for defensive military operations, the mines have been laid within fenced perimeters and marked, in accordance with the requirements specified in Amended Protocol-II. GPS and GIS technologies are used for assistance in recording the position of mines. Post-operations, these mines are cleared by trained troops. Concerted efforts have been made to rehabilitate the affected persons by providing monetary compensation, employment and assistance, including prosthetics for mine victims.

An integral part of our effort to avoid civilian casualties is to enhance public awareness on anti-personnel landmines. The Indian Army has disseminated information on mines laid along the border areas, as part of military operations, to the concerned civilians, besides placing warning signs at suitable locations. Mine awareness programmes in the relevant locations have also been conducted at the village level.

India has been a ready provider of technical assistance and expertise for mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes in international de-mining efforts. India has carried out demining operations in several countries including Cambodia, Angola, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. India has a long history of assisting Cambodia in demining. As far back as 1991, Indian Army deployed demining supervising teams in Cambodia. After training several demining platoons, demining of specific areas was entrusted to these teams, resulting in hundreds of square kilometer of land being cleared of mines. Since 2007 teams of Indian Army Engineers have been visiting Cambodia every year to impart training to demining companies of Royal Cambodian Armed Forces. The trained Cambodian army detachments have undertaken demining operations in Sudan under the aegis of UNMIS. India has also gifted demining equipment to Cambodia.

Mr. President,

In/conclusion, I would like to reiterate India's commitment to the vision of a world free of landmines where individuals and communities live in safe

environment conducive to development and where mine victims are fully integrated into their societies. The availability of militarily effective alternative technologies that can perform the defensive function of anti-personnel landmines cost effectively will facilitate the early achievement of the goal of complete elimination of anti-personnel landmines.

I thank you Mr. President.