

**Statement by India at the 12th Meeting of States Parties
to the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention
Geneva, December 3, 2012**

Counsellor
Permanent Mission
of
India to UN
Geneva
(PM)

Mr. President,

Let me join other colleagues in congratulating you on the assumption of the Presidency of the 12th Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention. India is participating in this meeting as an Observer.

Mr. President,

India supports the vision of a world free of the threat of anti-personnel landmines and is committed to their eventual elimination. The humanitarian ideals espoused by the Ottawa Convention have universal appeal. Our regular participation in Ottawa Convention's annual meetings is testament to the importance we attach to these ideals. India would continue to address the humanitarian suffering caused by anti-personnel landmines in consonance with our legitimate national security concerns.

India has taken a number of measures to address humanitarian concerns arising from the use anti-personnel landmines in accordance with international humanitarian law. India is a High Contracting Party to Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and has fulfilled its obligations under the Protocol related *inter alia* to non-production of non-detectable mines as well as rendering all our anti-personnel mines detectable. India is observing a moratorium on the export and transfer of anti-personnel landmines. Whenever and wherever the army has used mines for defensive military operations, they have been laid within fenced perimeters and marked, in accordance with the requirements specified in Amended Protocol II. Post operations these mines have been cleared by trained troops.

Indian 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 civilian authorities in defusing and clearing such devices.

An integral part of the government's efforts to avoid civilian casualties is to enhance public awareness on landmines. Further, mine victims are assisted in rehabilitation *inter alia* by providing financial compensation, employment and health assistance. The prosthetic called "Jaipur foot" is symbolic of India's contribution to victim assistance. India's ratification of the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities underscores the importance we attach to victim assistance.

India has been a ready provider of technical assistance and expertise for mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes including as part of UN peacekeeping operations to which it is a leading contributor. Indian mine clearance professionals have contributed to both clearance and clearance training globally, including in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Angola, Benin and Afghanistan. We have also provided support to two Indian NGOs to undertake mine clearance in Sri Lanka.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate India's commitment to the vision of a world free of the threat of landmines and where victims of landmines are fully integrated in society. We believe that the availability of militarily effective alternative technologies that can perform cost effectively the defensive functions of anti-personnel landmines will facilitate the early achievement of this goal.

Thank you.