



STATEMENT
BY

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COUNSELLOR
PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
GENEVA

AT

THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE,
STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

AMMAN, 18-22 NOVEMBER 2007

compensation, employment and assistance, including prosthetics for mine victims.

India remains committed to providing mine-related assistance under the UN umbrella. India is one of the largest contributors to the UN peacekeeping operations the world over. We have carried out de-mining operation in Cambodia, Angola and Afghanistan. In Cambodia, the Indian Army had deployed de-mining supervising teams in 1991-93. After training several de-mining platoons, de-mining of specific areas was entrusted to these teams, resulting in hundreds of square kilometres of land being cleared of mines. Our training effort towards this end continues even today. In Angola, the Indian Army had undertaken large-scale de-mining operations under the UN umbrella in 1995. More recently, in connection with the Indian Government's programme of constructing a road in the heavily mined south-western part of Afghanistan, from Zaranj to Delaram, we have undertaken a de-mining operation since December 2005, which is nearing completion, and the road construction now is in full swing.

India has been a ready provider of technical assistance and expertise for mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes in international de-mining efforts. Besides contributing to participating in national, regional and international workshops and seminars, an Indian Army team imparted training to the Cambodian Army on de-mining operations in March 2007. Thereafter, the trained Cambodian army detachments have undertaken de-mining operations in Sudan under the aegis of UNMIS, starting from mid-2007.

Mr. President,

To conclude, I will like to reiterate that the above measures and steps of my country underline its commitment to the humanitarian ideals of the convention. It is also because of this reason that India has attended all meetings of States Parties since the Nairobi Review Conference.

I thank you for your attention.