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

**The Ninth 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**

**GENEVA, November 24-28, 2008**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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Mr. President

Allow me to felicitate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Ninth Meeting of State Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their destruction. We are participating in this meeting as an Observer. We pledge you our full support.

India supports the vision of a world free of the threat of anti-personnel landmines. The humanitarian concern espoused the AP Mine Ban Convention has universal appeal. We understand and share these ideals and our presence in this meeting is expression of our commitment to the humanitarian ideals of the Convention.

India is a State Party to Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and other Devices (Amended Protocol II) of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW Convention), which it ratified in July 1999. We have fully implemented the obligations arising from this protocol. The protocol encompasses both international and internal armed conflicts, banning use of non detectable anti-personnel mines, prohibiting their transfer, and limiting the use of non-self-destructing or self-deactivating mines to monitored and marked areas to prevent non-combatant casualties. Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 1997, India has not produced any non-detectable mines. All anti-personnel mines in stock have been fitted with metallic rings in order to make them detectable. India also observes a formal moratorium on export of landmines. India supports the approach, enshrined in Amended Protocol II, which addresses the legitimate defence requirements of States, especially those with long borders.

We have undertaken a number of measures to address the humanitarian concerns, arising from indiscriminate use of landmines, in accordance with the international humanitarian law. 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 laid along border areas 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 mines. Post-operations, these mines have been cleared by trained troops.

India's armed forces 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, including those that have indiscriminately used improvised explosive devices and mines. The Corps of Army Engineers 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. In this context we would also like to inform that India ratified the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities in October 2007. The Convention entered into force in May 2008.

India remains committed to international de-mining and rehabilitation efforts and is always 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. 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. 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.

We have also shared our technical expertise in mine clearance. Besides 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. Recently responding to their request we have agreed to train a Cambodian army de-mining team on an annual basis. We have also gifted de-mining equipment to Cambodia in September this year.

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.

Mr. President,

I will like to reiterate that the measures and steps taken by 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 including the Standing Committee meetings since the Nairobi Review Conference.

I thank you for your attention.