

Statement by India during the thematic debate on Conventional Weapons of the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, October 2022

In an increasingly turbulent global security environment, it is important to reaffirm our collective commitment to disarmament and arms control instruments including the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, whose unique structure aims to ensure flexibility in dealing with new developments in armed conflicts and weapon technologies.

India is fully committed to the CCW and the humanitarian principles enshrined in the Convention and is a party to all the five protocols of the CCW. We strongly believe that the universalization of the Convention is critical for its full and effective implementation.

India participated constructively at the Sixth Review Conference of the CCW last year. We hope that our work in the intersessional period will further strengthen the Convention.

We have fulfilled our obligations under the Amended Protocol-II, inter-alia, related to non-production of non-detectable mines as well as rendering all anti-personnel mines detectable. We firmly believe that Amended Protocol-II strikes a balance between humanitarian concerns from landmines and legitimate defense requirements, particularly of states with long borders.

Amended Protocol-II also serves as an appropriate framework for addressing the issue of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) which is today deployed often by non-state actors including terrorists and illegal armed groups. India welcomes the adoption of the declaration on IEDs at the Sixth Review Conference of the CCW.

Having fought the menace of the use of IEDs by armed non-State actors, India accords high priority to IED threat mitigation and victim assistance and is ready to share best practices with fellow States.

India is a leading contributor to UN peacekeeping operations and has extended assistance to international demining and rehabilitation efforts.

As an original signatory to Protocol V, India is deeply aware of the grave humanitarian concerns caused by the explosive remnants of war and is fully committed to cooperation and assistance towards its full implementation.

Our ratification of the Convention on Right of Persons with Disabilities underscores the importance we attach to victim assistance

India for Humanity initiative, launched as part of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, has conducted several limb fitment camps with over 6500 artificial limbs fitted in the last few years in various countries.

The prosthetic limb, popularly known as Jaipur Foot, has gained recognition worldwide for its efficacy, safety and cost-effectiveness. The Programme has now been extended up to March 2023.

India highlights the need for efforts by all member States in the area of sharing new technologies which can be deployed for removal or deactivation of ERW.

Mr. Chair,

India supports the continued deliberations on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) within the framework of the CCW. We believe that addressing LAWS within the framework of the CCW strengthens the Convention and underlines that it is capable of responding meaningfully to evolving new technologies applicable to armed conflict in the 21st century. It is imperative that we develop a common considered and shared understanding of the concepts before we take any decisive steps.

India participates as an Observer in the meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and looks forward to its participation in the 20th Meeting of States Parties later this year.

India welcomes the consensus outcome document at the BMS-8 on the UNPOA on SALW, that recognized the adverse effects of illicit arms trade in exacerbating terrorism and emphasized the role of these UN instruments in addressing the threat posed by terrorism.

Mr. Chair,

We are pleased that the GGE on UNROCA, chaired by India, adopted a consensus report this year. We invite all UN Member States to participate in reporting their international transfers of conventional arms to the Register, which is a valuable voluntary transparency and confidence-building mechanism allowing countries to report on their international transfers of conventional arms.

India also participates in the work of the OEWG on Conventional Ammunition, and underscores need to address the diversion of conventional ammunition to illicit markets, illegal armed groups, terrorists, criminals and other unauthorized recipients and extend our support to refining, reviewing and strengthening the IATG guidance in this area.

As a member of Wassenaar Arrangement, India remains committed to work towards further strengthening global non-proliferation architecture in the area of conventional weapons and related dual-use goods and technologies.

In this regard, we are pleased to inform that India will be assuming the Plenary Chair of Wassenaar Arrangement for the year 2023.

India looks forward to working with all Member States to make meaningful progress in this area.
