

Check against delivery

Statement by India

at the High Level Segment of the Third Review Conference of the
Convention on the Prohibition of Use, Stockpiling, Production and
Transfer of Anti-Personal Mines and on their Destruction –

Maputo, 27 June, 2014

Mr President,

Allow me to felicitate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Third Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personal Mines and on their Destruction. We are very pleased that Mozambique with whom India has very strong bilateral relations is hosting this Review Conference, which also marks 15 years of the entry into force of the Convention. Even though India is not a signatory to the Convention, we are pleased to participate in this meeting as an Observer.

We support the vision of a world free of the threat of landmines and are committed to the eventual elimination of anti-personnel landmines. The Inhumane Weapons Convention or the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons process provides the appropriate legal framework for harmonizing military necessity with humanitarian concerns. India supports the approach enshrined in CCW Amended Protocol II of striking a balance between the humanitarian concerns on the use of landmines and the legitimate defence requirements of States, particularly those with long borders. The availability of militarily-effective, alternate technologies that can perform cost effectively the defensive functions of anti-personnel landmines will facilitate the achievement of this goal.

We attach importance to the full implementation of Amended Protocol II and have fulfilled our 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 landmines. Information regarding our obligations under Amended Protocol II is regularly disseminated to the armed forces. Whenever and wherever our Army has used mines for defensive military operations, they have been laid within fenced perimeters and marked, in accordance with the requirements specified in CCW Amended Protocol II. Post-operations, these mines have been cleared by trained troops.

Mr. President, an integral part of the Indian government's efforts to avoid civilian casualties is to enhance public awareness on landmines. Mine victims are also assisted in rehabilitation through the provision of financial compensation, employment and health assistance. India's ratification of the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities underscores the importance we attach to victim assistance. The prosthetic called "Jaipur foot" is symbolic of India's contribution in this regard.

India has extended assistance to international demining and rehabilitation efforts including as part of UN peacekeeping operations, to which India is a leading contributor. Indian mine clearance professionals have contributed globally to both clearance and clearance training, including in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Angola, Benin and Afghanistan. We have also provided support to NGOs undertaking mine clearance in the erstwhile conflict-affected areas in Sri Lanka.

Mr President,

The humanitarian concern which is espoused by the Anti Personnel Mine Ban Convention has universal appeal. India supports the vision of a world free of the threat of landmines, where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to development, and where mine survivors are fully integrated into their societies India has therefore participated in all meetings of the Convention, including the Standing Committee Meeting since the Nairobi Review Conference even though our national security concerns oblige us currently to stay out of the Convention.

We wish the Review Conference all success.

Thank you.