

Fourth Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Oslo, 25-29 November 2019

Statement by India

Mr./ Madam President,

The Indian delegation thanks you for giving us the opportunity to present our views at the 4th review conference of the Mine Ban Convention.

2. We have fulfilled our obligations related to non-production of non-detectable mines as well as rendering all our anti-personnel mines detectable under the Amended Protocol II (AP II) of the CCW. India is observing a moratorium on the export and transfer of landmines. Mines that are used for defensive military operations are laid within fenced perimeters and marked, in accordance with the requirements specified in AP II. Post operations, these mines are cleared by trained troops.

3. We believe that AP II strikes the right balance between humanitarian concerns on landmines and legitimate defence requirements, particularly of States with long borders. We support the vision of a world free of the threat of landmines and believe that the availability of militarily effective alternative technologies that can perform, cost effectively, the defensive function of anti-personnel landmines will facilitate the achievement of this goal.

4. An integral part of efforts to avoid civilian casualties is to enhance public awareness on landmines. Further, mine victims are assisted in rehabilitation with 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. We would also like to stress the importance of development and sharing of technology to protect civilians against the indiscriminate use of mines as well as for mine clearance.

5. India co-chaired an Expert Working Group on Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) along with Vietnam under the aegis of the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM+) and hosted a Joint Field Training Exercise on Humanitarian Mine Action and UNPKO in March 2016. India has been holding a year-long series of artificial limb fitment camps in a number of different countries spanning the globe. The first camp took place in Malawi in end October in 2018 and to date, we have held more than 50 on-the-spot artificial limb and caliper fitment camps in 26 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. We have established associate centers in Pakistan and the Philippines and have set up a joint venture in Colombia. 2 of our centers in Karachi and Islamabad have fitted over 10,000 limbs in Pakistan till date.

6. India is a leading contributor to UN peacekeeping operations and has extended assistance to international demining and rehabilitation efforts. Indian mine clearance professionals have contributed to both

clearance and clearance training in several countries including in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Angola, Benin and Afghanistan. We have also provided support for mine clearance in Sri Lanka. In the last six years, over 750 personnel from various countries have undergone training in India in mine clearance and explosives disposal. We remain committed to providing capacity-building and assistance to countries upon their request.

7. India will continue to support the implementation of AP II at the national, regional and global levels.

Thank you, Mr./Madam President.
