



Permanent Mission of Israel to the UN
GENEVA

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Statement by

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Deputy Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament

Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain
Conventional Weapons (CCW)
Twenty-first Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended
Protocol II

United Nations, Geneva

12 November 2019



Thank you, Mr. President,

At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you on the assumption of the presidency and assure you of our delegation's full cooperation and support in the discharge of your duties.

Mr. President,

As a High Contracting Party to the CCW and to Amended Protocol 2, Israel has undertaken concrete measures aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences that may be associated with the use of anti-personnel landmines. In this respect, in 1994 Israel unilaterally declared a moratorium on any export, sales or transfers of any type of anti-personnel mines. Since its initiation, the moratorium has been consistently extended for additional three-year periods and is currently in force until July 2020.

Mr. President,

Some of Israel's borders are protected, *inter alia*, by minefields, which aim to prevent incursions into Israel by armed forces or other militants. The overall instability in the Middle East, requires Israel to be vigilant and prepared for hostile infiltrations to its territory. As long as terrorists continue jeopardizing Israel's security, the need to protect Israel's borders and population can neither be disregarded nor compromised. Israel continues to view landmines, including Anti-Personnel mines, as an essential defensive tool that is effective in deterring and preventing infiltration into its territory and threats to its security. At the same time, Israel regards Amended Protocol 2 as an instrument of great humanitarian importance and therefore conducts its activities in strict compliance with its provisions - including those that regulate monitoring, marking, fencing and recording - and submits its annual report on a regular basis.



Mr. President,

In 2011 the Israeli National Mine Action Authority (INMAA) began its operation to clear all mines and minefields not essential to Israel's national security. INMAA is responsible for planning, coordinating, executing and supervising civilian and humanitarian mine clearance operations throughout the State of Israel, taking into consideration the International Mine Action Standards. Over the past 8 years, INMAA has released more than 9 million square meters of minefields, allowing the development of those areas for agriculture and tourism.

Moreover, INMAA is engaged in numerous mine clearance projects, which are executed in collaboration with other stakeholders as well as with international organizations, such as GICHD. Furthermore, the authority is responsible for activities such as the formulation of directives, innovative research, recruitment of skilled personnel, the issuing of tenders for companies to execute, supervision of the clearance operations, and various preventive measure, including public awareness raising. In addition, INMAA has recently been granted an extended mandate to coordinate Israel's efforts to clear explosive remnants of war.

Mr. President,

Israel welcomes the continued work on Improvised Explosive Devices, which we believe is an acute security challenge. In Israel's view, this issue should be of concern to all, especially due to their ever increasing sophistication. When identifying the best way to advance this issue under the CCW framework, it is important to take into account the various international instruments that deal with this subject, and ensure coordination at all levels in order to prevent duplicating our efforts. In this regard, we would also like to stress the importance of international cooperation and information sharing on both the international and national levels – including between relevant national authorities and bodies in the private sector.



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IEDs is a problem plaguing many regions of the world and is the preferred weapon of choice by terrorists. Israel views this issue as vital not only armed forces but also forces engaged in Peace Keeping Operations, humanitarian workers and civilians. Therefore, continued efforts should be made towards the prevention of unauthorized transfers, production and use of IEDs.

Israel attaches great importance to awareness raising regarding the scope and characteristics of this problem, and to improving methods of monitoring explosives and relevant dual use materials, which could be used in the preparation of IEDs. We reiterate our encouragement of states to adopt stricter national export controls and limitations on access to these materials.

Israel appreciates the French-Colombian work to reinforce our efforts on IEDs in the framework of the CCW, as demonstrated both in the political declaration adopted during the 2016 Review Conference and in the thought-provoking panels during this year's meeting of the Group of Experts.

I thank you, Mr. President.