

Statement by Israel
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Mr. President,

At the outset please allow me to congratulate you, Amb. Ganev, upon the assumption of the Presidency of the Fourth Review Conference of the CCW and express our delegation's full cooperation and support in the discharge of your duties. We are confident that the CCW and its membership will benefit from your vast experience at this critical juncture.

Israel values the CCW and its achievements and recognizes its uniqueness as the only forum which includes all of the most relevant actors, thereby rendering the CCW's achievements as those which have the greatest practical effect on the ground. Its strength lies in its fundamental tenet and obligation to search for the appropriate balance between military and humanitarian considerations, which seeks to bring lofty humanitarian considerations into the fold of vital security interests.

Mr. President,

A Review conference is a natural point in time, when CCW Member States take stock of the work which has been done during the passing five years, and try to delineate the future of this important instrument. We trust and hope that all of us will be entering the next five year cycle with renewed commitment and support for this important process.

Mr. President,

We welcome the accession of 14 new states to the Convention since the last Review Conference. However, with 114 Member states, we must strive to exact greater efforts at increasing its membership and its universalization. In some areas of the world, the lack of membership is more apparent than in others, and requires the direction of focused efforts. Such is the case of the Middle East, our own region, where very few states have expressed their consent to be bound by the CCW.

Mr. President,

The existence of two instruments dealing with the issue of mines, booby traps and other explosive devices, namely

the original Protocol II, and the Amended Protocol II, creates legal and political complexities that require our attention as to the most appropriate and practical way to overcome the challenge of bringing states to take upon themselves the obligations of APII rather than the original protocol. While states clearly have the prerogative to decide to which instrument they wish to be bound, we should nevertheless explore the most appropriate ways and means to encourage them to take this path, which in our view would serve to strengthen the CCW and its humanitarian impact. There are different options in this respect and we should not limit ourselves prematurely to the adoption of one method.

Another issue which arises regarding APII, refers to the best way to advance forward the issue of IEDs. This is a devastating problem plaguing many regions of the world, and the preferred weapon of choice of terrorists. Many efforts have been made in the past three years by the coordinator Mr. Reto Wollenmann of Switzerland to advance our knowledge and understanding of this problem, for which we thank him.

After three years of deliberations in the context of the expert meetings, we believe it is time to enter a new phase whereby we look into the development of best

practices or guidelines to best address different aspects of this security challenge, such as awareness raising to the scope and characteristics of this problem, ways to increase the monitoring of explosives which could be used in the preparation of IEDs and monitoring of relevant dual use materials. We must collectively work towards the prevention of unauthorized transfers, production and the use of IEDs.

Mr. President,

Undoubtedly the greatest task facing our deliberations during the Rev.Con is the successful conclusion of the work on the 6th Protocol on cluster munitions. We wish to thank the Chairperson of the GGE, Jesus (Gary) Domingo and his Friends of the Chair, Jim Burke of Ireland and Philip Kimpton of Australia, for their tireless efforts to advance our work forward. It is also an opportune time to recognize our two previous chairpersons who have contributed to this process, Mr. Bent Wigotsky of Denmark and Mr. Gustavo Ainchil of Argentina. As we enter the last phase of our negotiations, we are confident that the membership of the CCW will greatly benefit from the experience and wisdom of the Chair of Main Committee 2, Amb. Eric Danon of France, whom we welcome and wish every success. Israel will continue to play an active and

constructive role as it has done throughout the negotiations.

Mr. President,

Much work has been invested over the course of four years on the issue of cluster munitions. While the work on the GGE Chair's text has not yet been completed, the draft circulated at the end of our August session of the GGE is the basis for our work and represents the product of our intensive deliberations and common commitment to addressing urgently the humanitarian implications which may be associated with the use of cluster munitions. We must now bridge over the remaining gaps and bring this process to fruition.

We are confident that all CCW member states see the benefit in having an instrument which will have ~~real~~ practical and immediate results on the ground and thereby will yield real humanitarian effects. It will obligate states which see cluster munitions as vital, legitimate and necessary weapons to undergo a modernization process at great investment and cost. These states would, otherwise, not be under any obligations with respect to cluster munitions other than those existing in the general rules of warfare. IHC.

We hope that other instruments, which may be more expansive, but nevertheless do not enjoy the support of many relevant states, will not hinder the achievement of a successful outcome within the CCW context. It would be erroneous, from both a political as well as a legal point of view, to treat the agreement reached by a group of like minded states, among which only few are ^{producers & users} relevant to the issue of cluster munitions, as a solution to the issues of CMs ~~anything but that~~. From a humanitarian point of view, it may very well have counterproductive consequences.

Thank you.