

(Check against delivery)

Statement by

H.E. Amb. Kwon Haeryong

Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea

at

**The Third Review Conference of
the Convention on the Certain Conventional
Weapons**

Geneva

November 14, 2011

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the Presidency of this important conference. I am confident that your able leadership and wisdom will enable this conference to be a success, and I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Domingo for his efforts to move our discussions forward as the Chair of Group of Governmental Experts.

Mr. President,

Since its adoption in 1980, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons(CCW) has been playing a paramount role in realizing the principles of international humanitarian law. The CCW strikes the right balance between humanitarian concerns and security considerations. Furthermore, the CCW is a dynamic instrument, capable of responding to developments in weapons technology and to the nature and conduct of armed conflict. It does so through the adoption of new protocols, each containing specific rules regulating a particular type of weapon. As a State Party to the CCW since 2001, the Republic of Korea has been faithfully implementing the principles and provisions of the Convention, both in letter and spirit.

The last three review conferences of the CCW managed to obtain some successful results, ensuring and enhancing the relevance of the CCW. At the last review conference, we adopted the Plan of Action on universalization and Sponsorship Program and also established a compliance mechanism. However, we still have long way to go in universalizing the CCW and its five protocols as well as increasing submission of compliance reports by States Parties. I expect that we can have in-depth discussions in **the Conference**.

Mr. President.

My delegation shares the international community's concerns about humanitarian impact caused by the irresponsible use of cluster munitions and supports the work of the Group of Governmental Experts to negotiate a protocol that strikes the right balance between humanitarian considerations and legitimate security needs. In this light, the Republic of Korea, despite the unique and volatile security situations it faces, has actively participated in the GGE in a constructive manner. Following a dozen rounds of intensive negotiations since 2008, we are exploring the ways to move forward the discussions in the most effective way. I hope that we will be able to find a common ground based on GGE Chair's text.

Mr. President,

At this Review Conference, we need to review our past performances and decide future actions. In order to achieve progress, the Republic of Korea will continue to do its part in advancing the effective implementation of the CCW, and looks forward, in this regard, to active contributions from States Parties. In concluding, let me reiterate that my delegation stands ready to work closely under your leadership toward a successful Review Conference.

Thank you. /END/