Madam President,

Besides the High Contracting Parties, we welcome amongst us today the presence of relevant international organizations, NGOs and civil society representatives. We appreciate their close engagement with the review process.

We welcome Bahrain and Cote d'Ivoire, who have joined the CCW this year as High Contracting Parties, following Algeria and Palestine which joined last year. We note with satisfaction that the total number of High Contracting Parties has reached 123. There is a need to promote the Convention’s aims and objectives. Efforts towards universalization therefore should remain a priority.

The strength of the CCW lies in the delicate balance that it maintains between military necessity and humanitarian concerns. This aspect of the Convention needs to be preserved and strengthened.

Pakistan is a party to the Convention and all its five Protocols. We are fully compliant with their provisions and have submitted all requisite reports, including for the last reporting period. We remain committed to our obligations under CCW. We are proud of our active contribution to de-mining and ERW clearance efforts world over, particularly under UN peace-keeping operations, to which Pakistan remains one of the largest troop contributors.

Madam President,

Coming over to Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM). Pakistan considers Anti-Vehicle Mines as legitimate defensive weapons, which help in checking aggression and offensive use of force, especially for countries facing conventional military imbalances and long land borders. The humanitarian concerns arise from the “irresponsible use” of these mines, especially by non-state actors. Their use by High Contracting Parties is already regulated by the existing provisions of AP-II, and International Humanitarian Law in general. It is, therefore, an issue of compliance and implementation. We, therefore, need to focus on strengthening the implementation of the existing international instruments.
Madam President,

We recognize the urgency of concluding a separate Protocol of the CCW to pre-emptively ban the further development and use of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS) whose introduction, we think, would be illegal, unethical, inhumane and unaccountable as well as highly destabilizing for international and regional peace and security. We look forward to the further consideration of this issue in a holistic manner in the framework of a dedicated Group of Governmental Experts (GGE), in accordance with the mandate agreed during the informal Meeting of Experts in April 2016.

Madam President,

We will participate actively and constructively in this RevCon under your leadership, and hope for a robust and forward looking outcome document that strengthens the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

I thank you.