STATEMENT BY

AMBASSADOR ZAMIR AKRAM
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

AT

THE 7TH CONFERENCE OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES TO PROTOCOL-V ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR TO THE CCW

Geneva,
11 November 2013
Mr President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of the Seventh Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Protocol-V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) to the CCW. I assure you of my delegation’s full support and cooperation. We remain confident that your able leadership will guide this Conference to a fruitful conclusion.

We would also like to commend the Coordinators of Protocol-V for their hard work and dedication. We are optimistic that their efforts would contribute towards further progress in implementation of the Protocol, thereby leading to the minimization of the human suffering caused by ERW.

Mr President,

Although no explosive remnants of war exist in Pakistan, we remain fully committed in fulfilling our obligations under Protocol-V. Since our accession to Protocol-V, we have actively participated and contributed to all its meetings. Pakistan has regularly submitted its Annual Reports under CCW Protocol-V, including for the last calendar year.

Mr President,

The Standard Operating Procedures of our Armed Forces already include procedures for clearance, removal and destruction of ERW, which are consistent with the provisions of Protocol-V. Similarly, we have procedures in place for recording, storage, transmission of information, and marking of all types of mines and explosives. Our Armed Forces also have specific procedures for storage and destruction of ammunition in line with our obligations under Protocol-V.

These procedures also include taking maximum precautions with regards to the protection of the civilian population and civilian objects and in marking, fencing and monitoring explosive ordnance at military installations and bases. The steps taken by our Armed Forces, as well as our experts and specially trained units, ensure that we are well prepared to meet any challenge posed by ERW, in accordance with the provisions of Protocol-V, including preparation of contingency plans.
Mr President,

In addition to fulfilling its obligations under Protocol-V, Pakistan Armed Forces have been actively participating in de-mining operations in various parts of the world by extending technical assistance and cooperation to international humanitarian de-mining operations as part of UN De-mining and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Programme. Our Armed Forces have conducted extensive de-mining of South-Eastern border of Sudan since 2006. As part of the UN programme, our Armed Forces have also provided technical assistance in clearance of ERW from Liberia, Darfur region of Sudan and Ivory Coast in the past.

Mr President,

Pakistan will continue to fully comply with its obligations under Protocol-V and will continue to cooperate with all States Parties for the successful implementation of Protocol-V for helping to reduce human suffering resulting from explosive remnants of war.

I thank you, Mr. President.

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