Statement by the Ambassador KIM Young-moo of the Republic of Korea
At the 9th Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V

Geneva, 9 November 2015

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Mr. President,

First of all, allow me to congratulate you on your election as president. My delegation is confident that your able leadership and wisdom will bring this meeting to a fruitful conclusion, and you can count on my delegation's full support and cooperation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express the sincere gratitude of my delegation to the coordinators for the reports which have been submitted on the main issues of the Protocol. Building upon the useful expert presentations and subsequent live discussions at the Meeting of Experts last April, my delegation hopes that the 9th Conference will make a meaningful contribution towards ensuring the complete implementation of the Protocol.

In particular, the Republic of Korea attaches great importance to Protocol V in view of the severe humanitarian and developmental impact of explosive remnants of war on post-conflict societies. With a view to preventing and alleviating the grave humanitarian suffering caused by explosive remnants of war, Protocol V has, without a doubt, made a crucial contribution to international humanitarian law. In particular, Article 3 and Article 4 specifically encourage the parties to provide updates on the implementation of the relevant obligations and to share their experiences and lessons learnt on particular clearance challenges, as demonstrated in the report submitted by the Coordinators. In our view, the balancing of military security and humanitarian concerns stands as a core strength of this conventional arms control regime.
Mr. President,

Since its accession in 2008 and as a party which has faithfully complied with the Protocol, the Republic of Korea has strongly supported universalization. Therefore, we gladly welcome and will fully cooperate in sponsoring the efforts of the developing countries’ to enter into the Protocol.

Concerning the issue of national reporting, it is regretful, however, that the recent rate of submission of the annual national reports is decreasing. National reporting continues to serve as the central transparency mechanism under Protocol V. Therefore, we would like to emphasize that the admission of national reporting should be further encouraged and be in accordance with the updated Guide on the merger of the two overlapped reporting forms E and F. Along these lines, my delegation looks forward to a further increase in the number of national reports submitted annually. In this regard, the Republic of Korea has remained faithful in submitting its annual national report, and will continue to strengthen its efforts to provide the most up-to-date information in a timely and transparent manner, and furthermore, to share best practices and policies.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Korea welcomes the ongoing efforts to spread the voluntary best practices specified in the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) as the standard for munitions management. The Republic of Korea has strengthened its policy to minimize the risks and effects of ERW and has enforced generic preventive measures through relevant regulations. We continue to make efforts to harmonize such a self-established directive with internationally-recommended guidelines.
In addition, the Republic of Korea endeavors to cooperate with ERW-affected countries to help deal with the post-war consequences of unexploded ordnances and emplaced landmines at the bilateral and multilateral levels. In particular, as an example, the Republic of Korea concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with Viet Nam to address this issue, and is exploring concrete projects to provide first aid and rehabilitation treatment to ERW victims. Recently, Korea is cooperating with Laos on education and technical assistance regarding clearance of mines within the country.

Finally, my delegation once again extends its appreciation to you Mr. President for your dedicated efforts in preparing for this Conference and would like to reaffirm its strong commitment to the spirit of the Protocol.

Thank you, Mr. President. /End/