Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW
General exchange of views

Geneva

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Mr. Chairman,

1. At the outset, the delegation of the Republic of Korea wishes to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the chairmanship of this important meeting. I am confident that under your able leadership, this meeting will be successful. Along these lines, I assure you of my delegation’s full support and cooperation.

2. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Convention’s entry into force. Over the past three decades, the CCW has served as a dynamic framework for conventional disarmament and nonproliferation grounded in the promotion of humanitarian principles. The framework has effectively prevented the development and usage of weapons which cause unnecessary suffering such as injury by non-detectable fragments. In addition, it has provided an effective and practical forum to lead crucial discussions on ways to duly regulate weapons such as mines and cluster munitions which remain employed by State Parties for security reasons.

3. This year is also the year we adopted the historic Arms Trade Treaty. The Republic of Korea signed the ATT upon its adoption and supports the Treaty’s early entry into force. Now the expectation of further progress in the area of conventional arms control is high, and against this backdrop we should further strengthen our efforts under the CCW framework to rein in conventional weapons to minimize humanitarian concerns by developing and adopting norms acceptable to all State Parties.

4. The Republic of Korea has put significant efforts into striking the right balance between humanitarian concerns and military requirements to maintain peace and security of the Korean Peninsula. As a State Party to the CCW, which has faithfully implemented the principles and provisions contained therein, the Republic of Korea attaches great importance to the indispensable role of the Convention in addressing humanitarian concerns in a manner consistent with the national security concerns of States, and joins in the efforts to further strengthen the Convention.
5. Along these lines, the ROK delegation supports the continuous efforts under the Convention to respond to the development of weapons technology and to the evolving nature of armed conflicts with the aim of preventing and avoiding unnecessary suffering. In this vein, we welcome the fact that the 2013 expert meeting of Amended Protocol II held intense discussions on ways to address humanitarian concerns associated with the widening use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) by non-state actors. It is also commendable that the chair has invited us to a discussion over the advent of fully autonomous weapons systems in the future, and the challenges such weapons could pose to future armed conflicts and international humanitarian law.

6. The Republic of Korea has diligently engaged in discussion on the implementation of international humanitarian law with regard to mines other than anti-personal mines. The ROK delegation is very much aware of and concerned with the grave humanitarian impact of the uncontrolled usage of MOTAPM, and believes that careful balance between humanitarian considerations and security needs to be established in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

7. The ROK delegation firmly believes that the CCW is an invaluable asset to the international community, and that we should increase the number of High Contracting Parties to the Convention by further strengthening the relevance and effectiveness of its role in conventional arms control. In this regard, the ROK delegation would like to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to all of the efforts pur forward by Implementation Support Unit this year.

8. In conclusion, the ROK delegation wishes to reaffirm its commitment to de-mining projects and victim assistance worldwide. Since 1993, the Republic of Korea has contributed over $8 million dollars in these areas, and will continue to join global efforts towards these ends.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.