



Preparatory Committee of the 5th CCW Review Conference
(Geneva, 31 August-2 September 2016)

Statement by Pakistan
(Delivered by Usman Jadoon, Counsellor, Permanent Mission)

General Exchange of Views

Madam President,

The Pakistan delegation is very pleased to see you presiding ~~over~~ this meeting and ~~congratulates you on your election as the President of the forthcoming CCW Review Conference.~~

We are grateful to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for the excellent meeting arrangements, and their administrative and substantive support. We particularly appreciate the timely circulation of the draft outcome documents by Ambassador Mathew Rowland of the UK, and look forward to working with him in finalizing the drafts as far as possible during this PrepCom meeting.

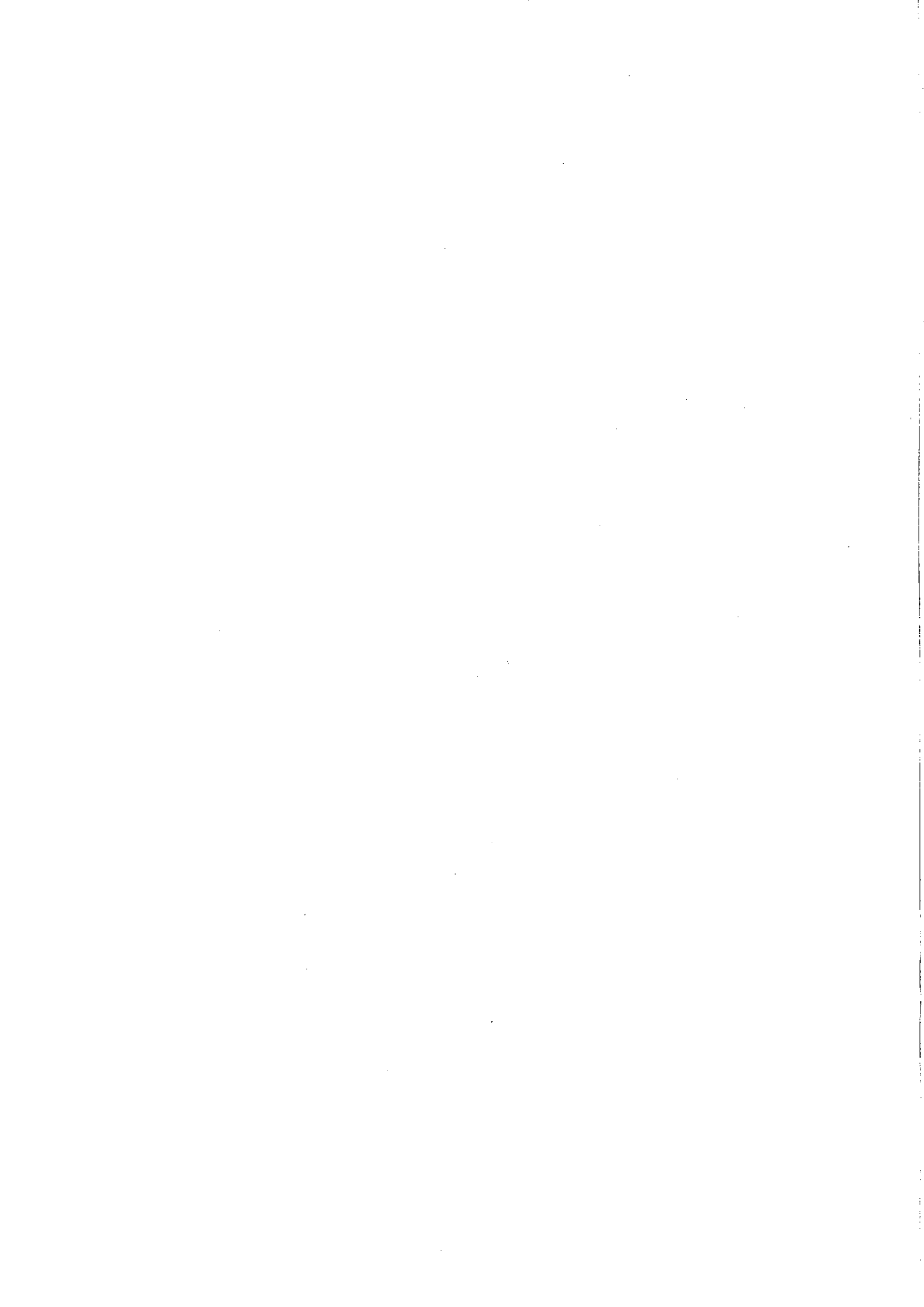
Madam President,

We welcome Bahrain and Cote d'Ivoire, who have joined the CCW this year as States Parties, following Algeria and Palestine which joined the Convention last year. We note with satisfaction that their accession to the Convention has brought the total number of States Parties to the Convention to 123. There is a need to further strengthen the Convention through its universal adherence and implementation. Efforts towards universalization should remain a priority. We welcome your efforts in reaching out to States not parties to the Convention.

*in his capacity as
the Chairman &
designate
of MC-I*

The strength of the Convention lies in the delicate balance 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 as well as all of its five Protocols. We are fully compliant with their provisions and have submitted all the requisite reports, including for the last reporting period. We remain committed to our obligations arising from the CCW. We are also proud of our active contribution to de-mining and ERW clearance efforts in different parts of the world particularly in the context of UN peace-keeping operations, to which Pakistan remains one of the largest troop contributors.



Madam President,

The issue of Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM) continues to generate divergent viewpoints and perspectives among States Parties. There exist wide differences on MOTAPM in terms of their scope, definitions, technical details, and cooperation and assistance. Pakistan considers Anti-Vehicle and Anti-Tank Mines as legitimate defensive weapons, which help in checking aggression and offensive use of force, especially in situations of conventional military imbalance and long land borders. The humanitarian concerns arise from the "irresponsible use" of these mines, especially by non-state actors; their use by States Parties is already regulated by the existing provisions of AP-II, and the International Humanitarian Law in general. It is, therefore, an issue of compliance and implementation. At this juncture, we need to focus on strengthening the implementation of the existing international instruments – and not a new instrument or amendments to them.

Madam President,

We recognize the urgency of concluding a separate Protocol of the CCW to preemptively 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 destabilizing for international peace and security. We look forward to the further consideration of this issue 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.

We will participate actively and constructively in the review process 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, Madam President.