



PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

56 Rue de Moillebeau, 1211 Geneva Tel: (4122) 749 1930 Fax: (4122) 734 8085

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STATEMENT

BY

**AMBASSADOR ZAMIR AKRAM,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

FOURTH CCW REVIEW CONFERENCE

**Geneva,
15 November 2011**

STATEMENT BY PAKISTAN: 4TH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF CCW

Mr. President,

We congratulate you on your election as President of the Fourth CCW Review Conference. We are confident that your leadership during the next two weeks will enable this Conference to reach important decisions for the future of this Convention.

Let me also congratulate the Chairpersons of the two Main Committees, the Drafting Committee and the Credentials Committee on their election to important assignments in your bureau. We are certain that their positive contribution would be crucial for the success of the Conference's work. My delegation assures you and your team of its full cooperation and support.

Mr. President,

The CCW is a landmark instrument in the field of arms control and disarmament. The strength of this Convention lies in the legal framework it establishes to harmonize the humanitarian concerns related to conventional weapons with the security imperatives of states. The Review Conference presents an important opportunity to reflect on the utility and operation of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and setting out the framework for our future work under the rubric of the Convention. It is, therefore, important to undertake this task in a constructive spirit with mutual understanding and respect.

Mr. President,

Pakistan believes that the CCW as well as its protocols are working effectively. The Convention along with its Protocols has made important contribution in the field of Conventional arms control and disarmament as well as the development and strengthening of International Humanitarian Law. Pakistan's active role in the negotiations for the Convention as well as its Protocols is well known. It is a party to the all five protocols of the CCW and is fully compliant with their provisions. It has also submitted all the required reports concerning its compliance. We are also proud of our active contribution to the de-mining efforts in different parts of the world particularly in the context of the UN peace-keeping operations.

In order to further maximize the positive impact of this Convention and its Protocols, we need to focus on expanding their membership as well as enhancing their implementation. We continue to stress the need for universalizing the CCW and its Protocols. To enhance implementation, it may be useful to consider ways to further fine tune the reporting mechanisms, without adding to the reporting burden on the states parties.

Mr. President,

While Pakistan has never used cluster munitions it continues to recognize their military utility as legitimate weapons of self defence. Pakistan recognizes the serious humanitarian consequences stemming from the indiscriminate use of cluster munitions and as such welcomed efforts to mitigate their negative consequences. We are of the view that the CCW in harmonizing the humanitarian concerns with security imperatives provides an ideal platform to deal with this subject. Pakistan has thus supported the work of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) within the CCW framework. We have actively participated in all rounds of negotiations on a draft protocol on cluster munitions. We do recognize the hard work put in by the Chairman of the Group of Governmental Expert Mr. Jesus Domingo. We conveyed our concerns and presented our proposals on the Chair's text in good faith. However, we regret to note that the latest version of the Chair's text does not address our concerns.

The Chair's text contains certain elements that are discriminatory in nature and could provide a group of countries with possible commercial advantages. In an effort to bring a political compromise, the text proposes arbitrary dates and unfair technical provisions, which are advantageous to some states and detrimental to others. This cannot and should not

be the purpose of disarmament negotiations. To remind the delegations of one of the cardinal principles of disarmament negotiations, let me quote Para-29 of the Final Document of SSOD-I:

"The adoption of disarmament measures should take place in such an equitable and balanced manner as to ensure the right of each State to security and to ensure that no individual State or group of States may obtain advantages over others at any stage. At each stage the objective should be undiminished security at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces."

Unfortunately, the Chair's text undermines the spirit of this principle.

Nevertheless, Pakistan has made a proposal to address some of these issues and we look forward to the work of the Main Committee-II, to ensure that the outcome is equitable and balanced and also addresses the humanitarian impact of irresponsible and indiscriminate use of cluster munitions.

Mr. President,

On the issue of Anti-Vehicle Mines (AVMs) or Mines Other Than Anti Personnel Mines (MOTAPM) the states parties to the CCW continue to have differing viewpoints and perspectives. There are still wide differences over scope, definitions, transfers, cooperation and assistance, in addition to technical details. We believe that the AVMs are legitimate defensive weapons and existing provisions of the CCW and International Humanitarian Law can address the problems related to their irresponsible use.

Mr. President,

In the recent years there have been certain new initiatives in the field of conventional arms control and disarmament. Some of these have set ambitious goals and have worked to proscribe few categories of conventional weapons. While we respect the choice of some states to negotiate ambitious instruments in this field we wish to reiterate that for Pakistan, like many countries, the CCW remains the basic framework in the field of conventional arms control. While continuing to fulfil our obligations under the CCW we would not be bound by treaties or arrangements developed outside this framework. It should be important to note that some of the new treaties proscribing certain conventional weapon categories were negotiated after a fundamental change of the security situation in Europe following the end of the cold war. However, other regions, like our own, have not seen such dramatic transformation in the regional security situation.

During the course of next two weeks, the Review Conference will consider a number of proposals for endorsement by the Review Conference. Our delegation will discuss them with an open mind. However, it would be wise not to explore new avenues or amendments in existing instruments that do not have a potential of achieving consensus. At this juncture, we need to strengthen the implementation of existing instruments. Further amendments in those instruments would hamper our efforts to universalize the Convention.

Thank you Mr. President.