



PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
PERMANENT MISSION AT GENEVA

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Head of the Chinese Delegation**

**At the Fourth Review Conference of the High Contracting
Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons**

Geneva, 14 November 2011

Mr. President,

At the outset, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to congratulate you on your election to the Presidency of the Fourth Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). I would like to thank you for your efforts in guiding the preparatory process of this Conference. I believe that with your rich experience and outstanding skills, you will surely guide this Conference to positive achievements. The Chinese delegation will fully cooperate with you and other delegations to this end.

Mr. President,

The current international and regional situation is witnessing complicated and profound changes, which has brought about new opportunities and challenges to international security, arms control and non-proliferation process. At the same time, the issue of conventional arms control related to humanitarian concerns has drawn more and more attention from the international community. The CCW has gained universal recognition from the international community. And the multilateral efforts under the framework of the CCW have become a major limelight in the field of international arms control and disarmament. These fully demonstrate the importance that States Parties attach to conventional arms control, and reflect the trends of civilization of the current times and the humanitarian glory of the international community's efforts for security and decency.

Looking back, we are happy to see the remarkable success of conventional arms control achieved under the framework of the CCW. First, the universality of the Convention has been continuously improved. The number of States Parties to the Convention has reached 114. Second, the Convention has achieved growing vitality. The Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) has entered into force and been implemented effectively. Third, the implementation of the Convention is making steady progress, compliance mechanism of the Convention has been implemented in an effective manner,

and relevant international cooperation has been promoted steadily. Fourth, the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) of the Convention has carried out efficient work and held in-depth consideration on such important issues as cluster munitions, which has further explored common ground of States Parties and made sufficient preparation for addressing the issue of cluster munitions under the framework the CCW. The above-mentioned achievement is a good basis for us to continue our efforts to promote the CCW process.

Meanwhile, there is still a long way to go to strengthen the universality and validity of the Convention so as to achieve its objectives and purposes. China believes that the international community should join hands and make collective efforts, consult each other on an equal footing with wide participation, stick to the principle of balancing military demands with humanitarian concerns, promote constant progress for all work under the framework of the Convention and maintain the authority and vitality of the CCW process.

Mr. President,

In pursuing the people-oriented concept, the Chinese Government is dedicated to promoting humanitarian conventional arms control efforts. China ratified the ERW protocol in April 2010. Now, China is a State Party to the Convention and all the five annexed protocols. China supports the purposes and objectives of the Convention, and has been earnestly fulfilling its obligations under the Convention and its annexed protocols, actively participating in international cooperation under the framework of the CCW. China has attended the meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention and the GGE meetings in a constructive manner, and put forward many reasonable proposals and ideas, making positive contributions to promoting the CCW process.

China has also actively carried out international humanitarian de-mining assistance. Since 1998, the Chinese Government has established long-term

and systematic plan for international humanitarian de-mining assistance and has provided humanitarian de-mining assistance to nearly 40 developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, which values more than 50 million RMB, for clearing mines and other explosive remnants. China has also actively provided victim assistance to mine-affected countries, contributing to the early reintegration of those mine-affected or cluster munitions-affected victims. The Chinese Government is ready to continue its endeavor, together with the international community, to contribute to addressing the humanitarian concerns caused by certain conventional weapons such as mines.

Mr. President,

Through negotiations of more than four years, the GGE of the Convention has conducted sufficient and in-depth discussion on the issue of cluster munitions. The current draft protocol has concrete requirements on prohibition of certain cluster munitions and measures for technical improvements, and also stipulates stringent transparency measures to ensure the effective implementation of the protocol. China believes that if the cluster munitions protocol can be reached on the basis of the current GGE Chair's draft, it will play an important role in addressing the humanitarian concerns caused by cluster munitions.

China stresses that the principle of striking a balance between military demands and humanitarian concerns should be maintained in addressing the issue of cluster munitions. At present, as each party fully knows the positions and red lines of the others, China calls upon all parties to demonstrate necessary political will in respecting and accommodating the concerns of other parties, so as to achieve a pragmatic, balanced and feasible solution on the basis of the draft protocol proposed by the Chairman of the GGE.

Mr. President,

The Chinese Government attaches importance to the humanitarian concerns

caused by the non-state actors' abusive use of improvised explosive devices (IED). We are ready to conduct beneficial exchange of views and experience with other parties. China supports the discussion on the issue of IED under the framework of amended Protocol II. At the same time, we believe the full implementation of Protocol V and Amended Protocol II will contribute to addressing humanitarian concerns caused by IED.

China attaches importance to the management of civil-used explosive items, and has adopted a series of laws and regulations, as well as effective measures, to exercise strict control over the production, sale, purchase, transport and stockpile of relevant items. We will continue to spare no efforts to work with the international community to resolve the humanitarian concerns caused by IED.

We look forward to a fruitful outcome of the Fourth Review Conference of the Convention.

Thank you, Mr. President.