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Statement by

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Sixth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)

General Exchange of Views

United Nations, Geneva

13 December 2021
Mr. President,

As this is the first time I’m taking the floor, please allow me to congratulate you, Ambassador Hwang, upon the assumption of the Presidency of the Sixth Review Conference of the CCW and express our delegation’s full cooperation and support in the discharge of your duties, as well as our appreciation to your team and the secretariat for all their hard work in organizing our meetings this week.

Mr. President,

Israel values the CCW and recognizes its uniqueness as the only forum which includes all the most relevant actors. This renders the CCW's achievements as those which have the greatest practical effect on the ground. This forum's strength lies in its commitment and ability to strike the appropriate balance between military and humanitarian considerations, and it must maintain this strength in all future efforts.

A Review conference is a good opportunity to take stock of the work which has been done during the past five years and try to shape future efforts. We trust and hope that all of us will be entering the next five-year cycle with renewed commitment and support for the CCW's goals and objectives.

Mr. President,

With 125 High Contracting Parties, and only two new accessions since the previous review conference, we must strive to exact greater efforts at increasing the universalization of the convention. Moreover, Israel thinks that more attention should be dedicated specifically to the promotion of the universalization of Amended Protocol II, and in this regard, calls upon the parties to the original protocol to accede to the amended protocol.

Mr. President,

MANPADS and IEDs are long standing issues of concern in international fora, including at the CCW. The wide proliferation of these weapons and the widespread
phenomenon of terrorist activities necessitate addressing measures to limit the threats posed by them. While these weapons may be used as legitimate means of warfare, they pose a threat to humanitarian interests when used unlawfully by various actors.

Mr. President,

Undoubtedly the greatest task facing our deliberations during this Review Conference is the decision regarding the best path for advancing our discussion on LAWS. We wish to thank Ambassador Pecsteen of Belgium for his efforts during the last year, and we welcome Ambassador Almojuela, the Chair of Main Committee II, and wish her success in her efforts to reach consensus.

The GGE meetings thus far have helped promote a greater understanding of the various aspects of the issue and allowed us to agree on the 11 guiding principles in 2019. We consider this a noteworthy achievement and a strong foundation for our future work. We note, however, that there are still many issues that require further clarification and deliberation, and, in our view, the CCW continues to be the most appropriate forum for these discussions. Therefore, we observe that there is a need to continue with an incremental and informed process that will allow us to deepen our collective understandings. We look forward to further discussions on this issue in the framework of the CCW. Israel will continue to play an active and constructive role in any future discussion of LAWS.

Mr. President,

We have been dealing with the CCW’s financial situation during the last several years. We must ensure that a similar situation will not reoccur in the future and therefore support the initiative to consolidate all the measures the CCW has adopted on this topic over the years.
Mr. President,
I would like to respond to an accusation towards my country made by a delegation. We regret the exploitation of this distinguished forum for political purposes by a speaker who has knowingly made baseless allegations. Clearly, the speaker does not care about the dominant professional and non-political nature of this forum. We find this unconstructive behavior unfortunate and regrettable.

I thank you Mr. President and I wish all of us a constructive and fruitful week.