

L.34: Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

***Explanation of Vote by Mr. T. P. Seetharam, Minister, Permanent Mission of India
in Geneva on October 31, 2001***

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to set forth its position on the issue of anti-personnel landmines and the reasons which have led it to abstain on this resolution. India remains committed to the objective of a non-discriminatory, universal and global ban on anti-personnel landmines, through a phased process that addresses the legitimate defence requirements of States, while ameliorating the critical humanitarian crisis that have resulted from an indiscriminate transfer and use of landmines. We believe that a phased approach commends itself as a confidence building process, enabling States, especially with long borders, to safeguard their legitimate security needs. The process of complete elimination of anti-personnel mines will be facilitated by addressing the legitimate defensive role of anti-personnel landmines for operational requirements under the defence doctrines of countries concerned, through the availability of appropriate militarily-effective, non-lethal alternative technologies that can perform cost-effectively the legitimate defensive role of anti-personnel landmines.

We would support negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for a ban on transfers of anti-personnel landmines on the basis of a mandate that reflects the interests of all delegations. India has been an active participant in the CCW process and has ratified all its Protocols including Amended Protocol-II on landmines.

Therefore, my delegation has abstained on this resolution.