

Explanation of vote by Mr. D.B.V.Varma, Director, Ministry of External Affairs, on Agenda item 73(p):Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction on October 30, 2003

Mr.Chairman,

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 defense requirements of States while ameliorating the critical humanitarian crisis that has resulted from an indiscriminate transfer and use of landmines.

India believes that the 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 defense doctrines of countries concerned, through the availability of appropriate militarily-effective and non-lethal alternative technologies that can perform, cost-effectively, the legitimate defensive role of anti-personnel landmines.

India 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 the delegations. India has played active role in the CCW process and has ratified all its protocols including Amended protocol-II on landmines. India has discontinued since 1997 production of non-detectable anti-personnel landmines and has completed design development and trials of detectable anti-personnel landmines. India has, therefore, abstained on this resolution.

Thank you.

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