

***A55/C.1/L.44: 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. J.S. Mukul, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of India in Geneva  
on October 26, 2000***

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**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.**