Address of the representative of the Republic of Lithuania at the Meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts CCW Meeting of Experts on Mines other than anti-personnel mines (MOTAPM)
Geneva 2 April, 2012 - am

Mr. Chairman,

[Lithuania aligns itself with the statement made (to be made later today)] by the European Union and would like to present some additional remarks.

Allow me to also express my highest appreciation for the efforts by you and your team in this hard task of leading the complex CCW process through both the consolidation, implementation, and universalization of the CCW Convention on one hand and to broadening of its’ scope on the other and to assure you of the full support and cooperation of the Lithuanian delegation in this endeavour.

Lithuania supports the fundamental principle of the International Humanitarian Law that the right of Parties to the armed conflicts to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited. This fundamental rule has guided the work of the international community when adopting, implementing and further developing the CCW Convention and its Protocols.

Back in November 2006 during the Third Review Conference of the CCW Convention Lithuania together with other 10 States made a Declaration on Anti-Vehicle Mines, reflected in the document CCW/CONF.III/WP.16 dated 16 November 2006, later joined by 20 more Countries. In the declaration we did not merely regret the missed opportunity to adopt by
consensus a protocol containing legally binding commitments with respect to mines other than anti-personnel mines.

As responsible member of the international community Lithuania has a clear understanding that MOTAPMs are legitimate weapons and hence it is very important to find a right balance between the Humanitarian concerns and the Military considerations. A good basis for the agreement had been made during the five years of intense consultations and negotiations before the Third CCW Review Conference. Lithuania remains committed to continuing negotiations seeking for the eventual adoption of a new legally binding CCW protocol regulating the use of the MOTAPMS.

We invite the States Parties to search for a broader understanding on this important issue and hope that tangible results would be achieved in a near future. It would be a concrete step of keeping the whole CCW process of the multilaterally agreed norms of the limitations and regulations of the weaponry.

The conclusion of the VI protocol would underline the continued relevance of the CCW often considered moribund consistent with the humanitarian concerns, predictable and unavoidable advance of technology seeking for the further advancement of the International Humanitarian Law.

In closing my statement I would like to assure you of Lithuania’s continued effort and contribution to promoting the principles of the CCW and its protocols and further setting high standards addressing persistent humanitarian threats.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.