Mr. President,

The Brazilian delegation congratulates you on your designation as President of this Sixth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War to the CCW. We extend to you our full support and cooperation.

Brazil fully recognizes the need to minimize the humanitarian suffering caused by explosive remnants of war in post-conflict situations. We commend the efforts to improve the status and the operation of Protocol V to the CCW, as well as to promote its universalization. We are pleased to acknowledge that 84 States have so far consented to be bound by Protocol V. In this context, we would like to congratulate Bangladesh and Zambia on becoming the latest countries to join Protocol V.

Brazil is not affected by explosive remnants of war. Explosive ordnance is currently used by the Brazilian Armed Forces for military training and in controlled areas. Standard procedures are followed to destroy unexploded ordnance right after employment. The training areas are off limits to the civilian population and kept under military surveillance.
My delegation appreciated the substantive and useful discussions held during the Meeting of Experts last April. We support the recommendation that the 2014 Meeting of Experts continue to consider the issues of clearance, removal and destruction of explosive remnants of war. Clearance of ERWs represents a considerable financial, technological, material and human resources challenge for affected States. Cooperation and assistance are therefore vital. We encourage all High Contracting Parties and relevant international organizations and institutions to consider providing assistance in response to requests by ERW-affected States and further support capacity building for surveillance, clearance and destruction of ERWs.

With regard to generic preventive measures, we understand that training, capacity-building and knowledge sharing are the best ways to ensure safety conditions and avoid unexpected explosions at ammunition sites. In this regard, we support the recommendation to hold a practical workshop on the management of munitions sites during the 2014 consultations, as well as to follow-up on key issues with High Contracting Parties that have not yet reported on the implementation of generic preventive measures.

Let me stress that Brazil encourages all High Contracting Parties to consider providing assistance in response to requests submitted under Article 7 of the Protocol, or in response to needs identified in other ways by affected States. In this sense, while the potential cooperation among developing countries and among ERW-affected States could be encouraged, we believe that it should not be seen as an alternative for the effective engagement of developed countries that have the resources to provide this assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

As a High Contracting Party, Brazil is committed to the promotion of Protocol V. We acknowledge there is still much work to be done in terms of universalization of the instrument. Brazil stands ready to work at the bilateral level to promote adherence to the CCW and its protocols. I thank you.