Mr. Chairman,

1. First of all, I would like to commend your efforts for organizing and chairing this very eventful meeting. This week’s meeting of experts on mines other than anti-personnel mines bears great significance in that it is the first time in over five years. We expect this week’s meeting to be constructive and fruitful under your able leadership, and I assure you of my delegation’s full cooperation and support.

2. The Republic of Korea is currently in a position where, under circumstances of its national security, it cannot but depend on the deployment of mines including MOTAPM as a means of defense and deterrence. Nonetheless, we are very much aware of and concerned on the grave humanitarian impact that such mines cause upon civil society. In this regard, the Republic of Korea has actively engaged in discussions on the implementation of international humanitarian law with regard to MOTAPM within the framework of the CCW.

3. The Republic of Korea notes the importance of dealing with the issue of MOTAPM within the framework of the CCW, as careful balance between humanitarian considerations and national security needs to be established, without infringing upon the legitimate rights of states to their national security. Only through such balance can the regulation of MOTAPM gain universality and allow effective implementation.
4. Indeed, we should be wary of a repetition of the 2006 Third Review Conference of the CCW. In the renewed discussions on MOTAPM, State Parties should cooperate with each other in order to effectively address the humanitarian concerns surrounding MOTAPM.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The Republic of Korea firmly believes that the international community should redouble its efforts to avoid the suffering of innocent civilians resulting from the irresponsible use of MOTAPM.

6. In its genuine commitment to the global efforts to address the humanitarian concerns relating to landmines, the Republic of Korea has contributed over 7 million US dollars to global efforts in mine action such as the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (UNVTF), the United Nations Thematic Trust Funds (TTF), and the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF) since 1993.

Mr. Chairman, the Republic of Korea assures you of its constructive participation in this session and beyond.

Thank you. /END/