Statement by Ms. Tamar Rahamimoff-Honig
Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative
to the Conference of Disarmament
on National Policies on the use of MOTAPM
3 April 2012, Meeting of Experts on MOTAPM

Thank you Mr. Friend of the Chair,

In continuation to previous statements made yesterday by our delegation, we would like to take this opportunity to delve further into the Israeli policy on MOTAPMs.

Israel views MOTAPMs as legitimate mean of warfare, as long as it is used in compliance with the four basic principles of IHL – namely military necessity, distinction, proportionality and humanity – and with the relevant provisions of APII of the CCW, where applicable. As far as the legally binding framework is concerned, we consider these set of rules to be both exclusive and exhaustive.

In addition to those applicable IHL rules, Israel has voluntarily adopted, as a matter of national policy, the 2006 MOTAPM declaration and its requirements. In order to implement this declaration, inter alia, Israel refrained from laying outside PMAs MOTAPMs which do not meet the detectability and active-life standards, stipulated in the declaration.
Furthermore, currently Israel does not possess in its stockpiles any undetectable MOTAPMS. In addition, we also ensure in the design of new MOTAPMs, that they fulfill the necessary technical requirements with regard to detectability and active-life standards. The declaration's undertakings which refer to transfer controls, are covered by the Export Control Legislation of 2007 which incorporates, inter alia, the Wassenaar regime's list. This legislation also penalizes unauthorized transfers such as those purporting to transfer MOTAPMs to those other than authorized State agencies, and requires an end-user certificate in any transfer of mines.

Israel supports the further regulation of the use of MOTAPM under the CCW, provided it takes into account the necessary balance between military and humanitarian considerations and has realistic prospects of advancing the issue further. Much has already been invested in this process over the course of 5 years. Unfortunately this has not yielded yet an agreement. We view the requirements aforementioned as vital in connection with the MOTAPM process as well as from the CCW framework's overall perspective.

Thank you