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THE REPUBLIC OF

KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION
1 Avenue de l'Ariana, 1202 Genève

(Please check against delivery)

Statement by

Ambassador IM, Han-taek

Head of Delegation to the Conference on Disarmament

at

the Second Conference of the High contracting Parties

to Protocol V to the CCW

Geneva

10 November, 2008

Mr. President,

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Korea, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to you on your assumption of the presidency of this Conference. I thank you for your dedicated efforts in preparing for this Conference and assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Korea attaches great importance to this Protocol as a practical step forward in minimizing the humanitarian impacts from the Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). In addition, this Protocol is the only legally-binding instrument on disarmament that has been adopted under the UN framework in recent years, thereby sustaining the momentum of international efforts to overcome the current stalemate in multilateral disarmament and arms control.

Concerned with the sufferings of civilians from the ERW, the Republic of Korea made every effort to expedite the domestic procedures to ratify it, and submitted its consent to be bound by this Protocol on 23 January this year as the 40th State Party. The Protocol entered into force for the Republic of Korea on 23 July. We call upon those States that have not yet done so to ratify and implement this Protocol without further delay.

Mr. President,

During the First Conference last year, the high Contracting Parties took a number of important decisions with regard to the implementation of this Protocol, especially aiming at establishing a comprehensive framework to facilitate the exchange of information and the assistance among the States

Parties in addressing the effects of the ERW. In this regard, the Meeting of Experts held from 2 to 4 July this year was very useful in discussing the concrete measures to implement the decisions made by the First Conference.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to deliver my sincere gratitude to the Coordinators for their hard work to lead the consultation and cooperation on respective issues, such as (1) Clearance, (2) Cooperation and Assistance and Requests for Assistance, (3) Generic Electronic Template, (4) General Preventive Measures, and (5) Victim Assistance. I hope the recommendations and reports of the Coordinators will be given due consideration, and provide a pragmatic roadmap for the implementation of this Protocol through fruitful discussions during this Second Conference.

The establishment of a preliminary version of the ERW database on the CCW website is another important channel through which the information sharing among the States Parties can be facilitated in a cost-effective way. The Republic of Korea will explore the ways to contribute to the database through consultations with relevant government agencies.

We also note the successful launch of the Protocol V database consisting of national reports and their annual updates. The Republic of Korea is preparing the first national report which will be submitted next January.

In concluding, Mr. President, I would like to once again reassert the unwavering commitment of the Republic of Korea to the letter and spirit of the Protocol.

I thank you, Mr. President.