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Statement by

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Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)
Section on MOTAPM
United Nations, Geneva

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Mr. President,

Israel participated actively in the negotiations on the issue of MOTAPM which took place between 2002 and 2006, as well as in the useful GGE held in 2012, headed by the able leadership of the Friend of the Chair, Mr. Jim Burke of Ireland. We did so with the hope that the long deliberations under the framework of the CCW will yield an understanding and agreement regarding the regulation of the use of MOTAPMs. The aim of such potential regulation is to reduce the humanitarian suffering which may be caused by irresponsible and indiscriminate use of these weapons, whilst recognizing the continuing military necessity and legitimacy of the use of mines by states, including MOTAPM, for their defense.

In this context, Israel associated itself with the declaration, made on behalf of 25 states, at the end of the Third CCW Review Conference in 2006, announcing Israel's and other states' intention to adopt, as a matter of national policy, certain practices limiting the use and transfer of MOTAPM, and regretting the CCW's inability to adopt by consensus a new Protocol on MOTAPM.

In particular, Israel welcomed the provisions in the said declaration which prohibit the transfer of MOTAPM to terrorists and states sponsoring them, who use them illegally and utilize them as a source of explosives for IEDs. In light of the ongoing havoc across the Middle East, and the massive atrocities carried out by terrorist organizations, Israel wishes to reemphasize the acute danger emerging from the potential transfer of MOTAPM to terrorists and States sponsoring them.

In addition to the statement made on behalf of the aforementioned group, Israel has also made a separate declaration on this issue whereby it emphasized, *inter alia*, its understanding that the statement includes the necessary distinction between those military practices which prevail during a time of conflict and those practices which apply in other situations. This reflects the prevailing understanding in the room throughout the negotiation process.
Mr. President,

Israel would like to see the issue of MOTAPM discussed further in the CCW, provided that the necessary balance between military and humanitarian considerations is taken into account, and that the issue has realistic prospects of advancing further. Prior negotiations and deliberations have yielded significant progress which will hopefully assist in focusing future discussions on the specific issues which need further consideration. One such issue that is worth exploring is the technological progress in the field of de-mining methods, which Israel would be happy to share information about.

Thank you, Mr. President.