SWEDEN

General Assembly

First Committee

Introduction of resolution:
"Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects"

STATEMENT

by

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New York

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- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -
Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to introduce the draft resolution L.54 on the Convention on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW). I do so on behalf of almost 60 countries, including my own (Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). For the sake of brevity, I will refrain from reading out their names. My delegation is grateful to all the co-sponsoring countries for their support for this important resolution. We hope that many more countries will join us in the coming week.

Mr. Chairman,

It was a great achievement that the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention was able to adopt the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) by consensus last November. We warmly welcome this new legally-binding instrument. We call upon all States parties to adhere to it as soon as possible so that it can enter into force. The new Protocol will make a significant contribution towards minimizing the humanitarian consequences caused by explosive remnants of war.

We would also like to express well deserved support for the on-going work of the Chairman-designate and the two coordinators. We encourage the Group of Governmental Experts to consider all proposals on mines other than anti-personnel mines put forward since its establishment with the aim of elaborating appropriate
recommendations at the meeting in November. We also encourage the Chairman-designate and the Group to report on the work done on compliance as well as on the implementation of existing principles of international humanitarian law and on possible preventive measures aimed at improving the design of certain specific types of munitions, including sub-munitions.

Let me finally call upon all states that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention and its Protocols and to adhere to its provisions, including the important amendment to extend the scope to include armed conflicts of a non-international character.

I hope that the draft resolution, as in previous years, will be adopted without a vote.

I thank you.