Mr. Chairman,


We wish to reiterate that landmines continue to play a significant role in the defence needs of many states.

Given our security compulsions and the need to guard our long borders, not protected by any natural obstacle, the use of landmines forms an important part of our self-defence strategy. The objective of total elimination of anti-personnel mines can best be promoted inter alia, by making available non-lethal, militarily and cost-effective alternate technologies.

Pakistan is a party to the Amended Protocol-II of the Certain Conventional Weapons Convention (CCW) that regulates the use of landmines, in both internal and external conflicts, to prevent civilians from falling victim to landmines. We continue to implement the Protocol with the greatest earnestness.

Pakistan, as one of the largest troop contributor to UN-led peacekeeping operations, has actively contributed to the de-mining operations in several affected countries in the past. We are prepared to provide training facilities to the mine-affected countries within our national resources.

Pakistan enjoys a unique record of clearing all minefields after the three wars in South Asia. There has never been a humanitarian situation caused by the use of these mines. We remain committed to ensuring that mines in our military inventory will never become a cause for civilian casualties.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.