Mr. Chairman,

India shares the concerns about the challenges posed by transfers of conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons to terrorists and non-State actors, which has become a major threat to international peace and security. We attach high importance to the UNPOA. The full and effective implementation of the UNPOA and the ITI is a priority for India, especially as a means for combating terrorism and transnational crime.

India is fully committed to the CCW and the humanitarian principles enshrined in the Convention. We are committed to taking all necessary steps to implement our obligations under the CCW and its Protocols, including AP II and Protocol V. We remain concerned about the current financial status of the CCW and call on all States to make their financial contributions in full and on time.

India has fulfilled its obligations under AP II related to the non-production of non-detectable mines as well as rendering all anti-personnel mines detectable. India also observes a moratorium on the export and transfer of landmines. India’s ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities underscores the importance it attaches to the issue of victim assistance. India has been regularly participating as an Observer in the meetings of the APMBC and looks forward to participating in the 4th Review Conference in Oslo later this year.

We welcome the progress made in the GGE on LAWS over the last three years since its establishment in 2017. We remain convinced that
the CCW is the relevant forum to address this issue. We support continued substantive technical discussions in the GGE on LAWS within the CCW context with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

India supports the UNROCA and the UN Report on Military Expenditures and has submitted its national reports regularly.

India has strong and effective national export controls governing the transfer of conventional weapons which conform to the highest international standards and remains committed to preventing illegal transfer of conventional weapons.

Before I conclude, I would like to note that Pakistan has once again made a number of baseless and unsubstantiated allegations against India which are not borne out of facts. This Committee is aware of India's responsible conduct in abiding by its international obligations. Pakistan has continued to waste the precious time of this Committee, other UN organs and various multilateral forums by raising issues extraneous to their agenda. I will refrain from engaging further on this issue so as not to waste the precious time of this Committee.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.