Mr. President,

At the outset, let me begin by congratulating Your Excellency on your assumption of the Presidency of this meeting. I am confident that with your rich experience and outstanding skills, you will guide this conference to positive achievements. The Chinese delegation would like to assure you and other delegations of our full cooperation for a successful Conference.

Mr. President,

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Since then, the human society has made continual progress in the historical trend of peace and development, increasingly becoming a community of common destiny.

The international arms control and non-proliferation regime is under constant improvement, and plays an important role in maintaining peace and stability of the world. As one of the important international legal frameworks in the field of conventional arms control, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) has, since its entry into force, played an important role in addressing the humanitarian concerns caused by the abuse of certain conventional weapons. Over the past years, more and more attention has been devoted to CCW-related issues. The purposes and principles of the Convention have gained more recognition, the universality and effectiveness of the CCW and its Protocols have been further improved, progress has been made in pragmatic and in-depth implementation of the Convention, and international cooperation is steadily moving forward.

The Chinese government has always been committed to the conventional arms control process, and attaches importance to the humanitarian concerns caused by the abuse of conventional weapons. China believes that the legal framework and mechanism of conventional arms control should be further strengthened and improved, under the principle of balancing military demands with humanitarian concerns. States should jointly push forward all the work of the Convention on the basis of extensive participation, equal consultation and enhanced military mutual trust,

As a High Contracting Party to the CCW and all five Protocols, China attaches importance to and supports the work under the CCW. China hasfaithfully implemented its obligations under the Convention and its protocols and actively participated in
international cooperation in this regard. China has always submitted its national report on time and actively participated in meetings of experts of the Protocols. China attaches importance to promoting universality of the Convention and has contributed 10,000 US dollars annually to the Sponsorship Programme to support the participation by developing countries in relevant meetings and activities of the Convention. China has also worked, through various bilateral and multilateral channels, to encourage countries not yet Parties to join the Convention and its Protocols.

Mr. President,

China actively carries out international humanitarian de-mining assistance. During the Peacekeeping Summit in commemoration of the United Nations’ 70th Anniversary in September, President Xi Jinping declared that China will carry out 10 demining assistance programs in the coming five years. Since 1998, China has provided humanitarian assistance to nearly 40 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, worth over 80 million RMB in various forms including by donating demining equipments and hosting demining training programs. So far, China has trained close to 500 demining operators. This year, China hosted demining training courses for Myanmar, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Sudan and Zambia, trained nearly 70 demining operators and donated relevant equipments. China also donated start-up funds and office equipment to ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center and will donate office and mine detection and demining equipments to Cambodia by the end of this year.

Mr. President,

Science and technology have indeed benefited mankind. Meanwhile their military applications also pose immense potential risks and threats to the human security and even survival. The international community should abide by the existing international law, adhere to the concept of for all security, commit to preventive diplomacy, so as to check the emerging arms race in the hi-tech field and safeguard international peace and stability.

In this regard, the issue of lethal autonomous weapon systems is a typical example. This issue is very complicated as it involves political, economic, military, technical, legal, ethical and various other factors. The international community should attach high importance to this issue, and have in-depth discussions on relevant aspects including definition, scope, applicability of international law etc, so as to gradually deepen understanding, build up consensus while refraining from making hasty decisions. At the current stage, China supports further discussions under the framework of the Convention. We hope that such discussions will be in line with the purposes and
objectives of the Convention, take into full consideration of the legitimate concerns of all
countries, in particular the developing countries, and ensure equal and inclusive
participation by all Parties concerned.

Mr. President,

China all along maintains that a proper balance shall be stricken between the
humanitarian concerns and the legitimate security needs of sovereign states. Anti-vehicle
landmine (AVL) remains an important part of many countries’ legitimate means of self-
defense. As a matter of fact, the civilian casualties caused by AVL can by no means be
compared with that caused by Anti-Personnel Landmines. Should the Amended Protocol
II be implemented faithfully and universally, the humanitarian concerns caused by AVL
could be addressed properly. At this stage, we feel it is unnecessary to restart discussion
on this topic.

Mr. President,

China is ready to work with the international community to further enhance the authority
and vitality of the Convention, promote new progress in its implementation, and make
positive contribution to addressing the humanitarian concerns caused by the
indiscriminate use of certain conventional weapons.

I thank you, Mr. President.