Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you on assuming the chairmanship of CCW’s annual Meeting of High Contracting Parties. Extensive preparatory work and consultations were undertaken for this meeting, in particular on financial issues. We hope that those informal consultations, with the cooperation of all delegations, would assist in the smooth conduct and successful outcomes from this meeting. We appreciate the support provided by the CCW ISU and UNODA Geneva Branch.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. Chairman,

There is a need to continue promoting universal adherence and implementation of the Convention. Efforts towards universalization are of critical importance and should remain a priority. We commend the efforts undertaken in this regard including the UN Secretary General himself who addressed individual letters to all States that are not party to the Convention.

The strength of this Convention lies in the balance that it maintains between military necessity and humanitarian concerns. This aspect of the Convention needs to be preserved and strengthened.

Pakistan is party to all of the five Protocols of the CCW. The Standard Operating Procedures being followed by our Armed Forces comply with the provisions of the CCW Protocols. We have submitted all the requisite national reports regarding our compliance, including for the last reporting period.

We are also proud of our active contribution to de-mining and ERW clearance efforts in different parts of the world particularly in the context of United Nations peace-keeping operations, to which Pakistan remains one of the largest troop contributors. We reaffirm our readiness to assist other High Contracting Parties in implementing the Convention and its annexed Protocols.
Mr. Chairman,

We participated actively in the two sessions of the open-ended Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) held this year. While some incremental progress was achieved, important work still remains to be done for addressing the humanitarian and international security challenges posed by LAWS. We endorse the GGE’s recommendations and support its renewal with a strengthened mandate and commensurate duration of meetings over the next two years.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan has always met its financial obligations under the Convention and its annexed Protocols in full and on time. We look forward to working with other fellow High Contracting Parties during this meeting in order to find a durable and sustainable solution for the ongoing financial challenges as well as for addressing questions related to secretarial support, on the basis of the non-paper proposed by the Chair.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.