STATEMENT
BY MR. OLEXANDR ALEKSANDROVYCH
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE AT THE MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN
CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR
TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS
(14 November, 2013, Geneva)

Mr. President,

I would like to start by extending my warmest congratulations to you on the
assumption of your duties and wishing you every success in this endeavor.
Please be assured of my delegation’s full support and cooperation with you to
advance the objectives of the CCW.
I would like also to recall that Ukraine has aligned itself with the statement
made earlier today on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,

Ukraine as a State Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons
and all its Protocols considers the Convention to be an important instrument which
provides excellent basis for international actions on major problems arising from the
use of conventional weapons.
Ukraine strongly supports the purposes of the CCW regime, remains to be
committed to comprehensive compliance with this international instrument, and sends
its relevant national reports on a timely basis. We share the need for strengthening its
effectiveness aimed at reducing the negative consequences, which come both from
conventional warfare operations and from their aftermath, both to combatants and
civilians.
In this regard, we call on the CCW Contracting Parties to comply with the
provisions of this Convention and related Protocols, strengthening its implementation,
promoting universal observance of the norms and principles enshrined therein,
supporting their universalization and enhancing cooperation and exchange of
information. Ukraine welcomes the accession by Kuwait and Zambia to the
Convention and its respective Protocols.

Distinguished delegates,

Ukraine considers that mines and other dangerous explosives pose direct long-
term threat to civil population and a significant challenge to humanitarian operations.
Many countries, affected by the mine problem, still face serious social, economic, security and developmental consequences.

Recognizing the serious humanitarian problems, caused by the use of land mines, booby-traps and other devices, Ukraine fully shares the need to address effectively this acute issue and, in this regard, is fully committed to compliance with the Amended Protocol II to the CCW.

Ukraine has fully implemented all the requirements contained in the Technical Annex to Amended Protocol II.

Ukraine has removed from the armaments of the Armed Forces a whole range of engineer munitions which do not comply with this Technical Annex. Besides, amendments have been made to legislative documents of the Armed Forces of Ukraine regarding the procedures of application of antipersonnel explosive devices in guided regime that fully meet requirements of Amended Protocol II; more effective means of mine detection and decontamination; and perspective engineer munitions designing and constructing in compliance with the requirements under Amended Protocol II.

Alongside, due attention should be paid to the needs of states - full parties to Protocol V, where the need for elimination of Explosive Remnants of War is the top priority.

In this context I would like to emphasize that this issue remains to be critical for Ukraine, as it was made clear in our presentation here last Monday. In order to move forward ERW clearance efforts Ukraine is implementing the National Mine Action Program, adopted by the Ukrainian Government, running until 2014 and to be extended beyond. The Program envisages main priorities, needs and costs for clearance of the ERW affected territories in Ukraine.

However, resources at our disposal are not sufficient. We shall need additional international assistance related to ERW clearance, including within the framework of the CCW.

Mr. President,

Ukraine is among major proponents of strengthening the CCW regime and the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in order to alleviate the suffering of civilian population and restoring social and economic life on post-conflict territories.

Hence, Ukraine supports the initiative of France to organize expert discussions on the necessity to limit the use of killer robots.
Mr. President,

To conclude my statement I would like to reiterate that Ukraine as a long-standing champion of both nuclear and conventional disarmament and non-proliferation will continue to work actively with all CCW Parties to seek the best approaches to reducing the negative consequences from conventional warfare.

Thank you.