



**Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva**

Statement

**Statement by Ambassador Kahlil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan at 21st Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to CCW Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices, General Exchange of Views, Geneva
12 November 2019**

Mr. President,

I congratulate you on your election as President of the meetings of CCW Amended Protocol-II. Given your experience and diplomatic skills, we are confident of reaching substantive outcomes under your leadership. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

We appreciate the work done by the Secretariat for the substantive and administrative preparations for this Conference. Our appreciation also goes to the Coordinators on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) for their continued efforts in providing useful insights on this subject.

Mr. President,

Pakistan has remained committed to the full implementation and universalization of Amended Protocol-II since 1999 when we became a party to it. Pakistan believes that achieving universalization of AP-II would help in minimizing human suffering resulting from the indiscriminate use of mines, booby traps and other devices. Universalization of the Protocol, therefore, should remain a priority.

The Protocol's strength lies in the balance that it maintains between humanitarian concerns and the legitimate security needs of states. This aspect of the Protocol needs to be preserved and strengthened.

Mr. President,

Pakistan is fully compliant with the provisions of AP-II. There are no “un-cleared” mines on Pakistan’s territory and our Armed Forces continue to fully incorporate, at all levels, the requirements mandated by the Technical Annex of Amended Protocol-II. We have regularly submitted our national reports including the one for the current year.

Mr. President,

Pakistan is one of the largest troop contributors to the UN Peacekeeping operations. In the spirit of cooperation and assistance, we have been successfully undertaking de-mining operations in various parts of the world including Kuwait, Cambodia, Angola, Sudan and Liberia. We remain committed to providing assistance, within our national capacity, to further advance global humanitarian demining efforts.

We note with interest the development of new technologies that have the potential to protect civilians against indiscriminate and lethal effects of mines. Enhanced cooperation and international assistance on the transfer of such technologies to developing states, with a focus on developing their long term and self-sustainable capabilities, is essential. The transfer and sharing of technology and experience, within the framework of this Protocol is an important step towards achieving our common objectives and goals.

Mr. President,

Pakistan has always met all 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 to this Protocol, and to the CCW, in order to find a durable and sustainable solution for addressing the ongoing financial challenges.

I thank you, Mr. President.