UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND

STATEMENT

to the
General Exchange of Views

CCW Meeting
of the
High Contracting Parties

12-13th November 2015

Please check against delivery
Mr President,

First, I wish to thank you for all the hard work that has been put into the organisation of this conference, including the preparation of papers. I would like to congratulate you warmly on assuming the presidency of the CCW. We wish you every success in your leadership of the convention and look forward to working with you over the coming year. I would also like to thank the Implementation Support Unit of the CCW for their integral role in enabling our discussions.

The United Kingdom attaches great importance to the work of the CCW. We view it as a very useful forum which recognises both humanitarian and security concerns, and which draws together unparalleled military and diplomatic expertise to discuss weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious, or that have indiscriminate effects. We particularly value its flexibility in addressing different categories of weapons systems.

The United Kingdom welcomes the discussions and outputs of various experts meetings throughout the year, including on IEDs and on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems. It would like to thank the various co-coordinators for their efforts over the previous year. The United Kingdom fully supports the conclusions and recommendations of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II which allows us to further progress our work on IEDs. The United Kingdom will deliver more detailed comments on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems under that agenda item this afternoon.

The United Kingdom would like to see this convention become a global one. It shares the international community's concerns about the use of indiscriminate weapons in recent and ongoing conflicts. We urge all parties to any conflict to abide by international law and urge all states not party to the CCW to accede to it without delay.

Mr President,

Turning to the 2016 meeting schedule, the United Kingdom supports a meeting schedule that is efficient and allows States Parties to discuss all issues in detail, but which is also cost-effective given the current financial climate. As such, the United Kingdom feels strongly that a two-week Review Conference will not be necessary. We would therefore propose reducing this to one week. We would also like to propose reducing the informal meetings of experts on Amended Protocol II and Protocol V to 1 day each. This would result in reducing the total meeting time for 2016 by one week.

Mr President, in closing, I would like to assure you of the United Kingdom's full support and commitment to the CCW as we work towards achieving its goals.

Thank you.