GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-seventh Session

First Committee

Agenda Item 70
Convention on Prohibitions of Restrictions on the
Use of Certain Conventional Weapons
Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious
or to Have Indiscriminate Effects
Draft Resolution A/C.1/57/L.46

STATEMENT

BY

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Ambassador

Head of the Swedish Delegation
to the First Committee

16 October 2002

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -
Mr Chairman,

On behalf of all co-sponsoring delegations and my own delegation, I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.46 on the 1980 Convention on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW). My delegation is grateful to all the co-sponsoring countries for their support for this important resolution.

Mr Chairman,

In December 2001 at the Second Review Conference of the State Parties to the Convention important progress was made in extending the scope of the Convention and its Protocols to also include armed conflicts of a non-international character. We would like to take this opportunity to commend the Chairman of the Conference, Ambassador Les Luck of Australia, for his efforts in bringing the Review Conference to a successful conclusion.

At the Review Conference it was also decided that follow up work should be commissioned under the oversight of a Chairman-designate, Ambassador Rakesh Sood of India, of a Meeting of States Parties to the Convention to be held in Geneva on 12-13 December 2002.

It was furthermore decided to establish an open-ended Group of Governmental Experts, with two separate co-ordinators. The Ambassador of the Netherlands, Chris Sanders, were to lead the work on discussing ways and means to address the issue of Explosive Remnants of War and Minister Peter Kolarov of Bulgaria, to further explore the issue of mines other than anti-personnel mines. The Review Conference also decided to ask the Chairman-designate to undertake consultations on how to promote compliance with the Convention as well as to invite interested States Parties to convene experts to consider possible issues related to small-calibre weapons and ammunition.

The draft resolution expresses support for the work conducted by the Chairman-designate, the two Coordinators and the Group of Governmental Experts. It also encourages further work with a view to submitting to the States Parties recommendations on Explosive Remnants of War as well as reports on mines other than anti-personnel mines and on compliance.
Great efforts have already been put into all this important work and we hope for continued progress, resulting in a successful Meeting of State Parties on 12-13 December this year.

Mr Chairman,

As there are no signs yet, of a change in the worrying trend with more civilians being afflicted by armed conflicts, the Convention and its Protocols remain a highly important and integral part of international humanitarian law.

The draft resolution before us calls upon all states to become Parties to the Convention and its Protocols and to adhere to its provisions, including the provision to extend the scope to include armed conflicts of a non-international character. Sweden would like to express its support for further developments of this instrument in order to reach the humanitarian objectives of limiting the suffering of civilians and combatants alike.

On behalf of all co-sponsors, I wish to express our sincere hope that the draft resolution, also this year, will be adopted without a vote.

I thank you Mr Chairman,