STATEMENT

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AT THE MEETING OF HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES TO
THE CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL
WEAPONS

Geneva, 13 November 2014
Mr. Chair,

First, let me congratulate you on your appointment to this important post and assure you that Russian delegation is ready to assist you in your work in every way.

Russian Federation is one of the developers of the Convention on "inhumane" weapons and of all the Protocols. Russia remains a consistent advocate of universalization of this Convention and its comprehensive implementation since we believe that the Convention is a unique international instrument for real disarmament based on the rules of international humanitarian law.

In the modern world with growing strategic unpredictability multilateral disarmament regimes face unprecedented challenges. In these most complex conditions our Convention mechanism becomes more and more relevant. In our opinion now is the critical time for redoubling our efforts to reinforce the viability of the Convention.

We strongly believe that the most efficient way to strengthen the Convention is its universalization and full observation of its Protocols. In this regard we welcome the adherence of Iraq to the whole package of the Convention documents and Greece to Protocol V. We presume that the Accelerated Action Plan adopted at the IV Review Conference is a reference point in universalization and we are determined to strictly observe its provisions.

Russia continues contributing to the implementation of the Convention documents and realization of disarmament potential they contain. You may find exhaustive information in our regularly submitted national reports.

We appreciate the preparation work for this event and are ready to take part in plenary debate and discussions of specific issues.

We believe that the expert discussion on most pressing issue of IEDs, held in the AP II framework is extremely useful. These devices present one of the most serious humanitarian threats for international community. Our specialists will continue contributing to multilateral work on minimizing humanitarian impact caused by IEDs. At the same time we are convinced
that the very issue of IEDs lies outside of intergovernmental relations area since it is not states that manufacture and use IEDs, but “non-governmental entities”, or, simply put, terrorist groups. Thus in the framework of the Convention we could focus only on those aspects of IEDs that have direct connection to the letter and the spirit of our Convention. Everything else lies in the area of multilateral cooperation to combat terrorism.

Russian delegation took part in May in an informal workshop on lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS) and looked through the Chair’s report on its results. We have to say that we have issues considering the expedience of continuing these discussions in the Convention framework. The efforts to take the course of discussing international legal regulation of using virtual technology that presently has no functioning models seem to be doubtful.

As for mines other than anti-personnel, our stance remains the same. We are still convinced that “humanitarian threats” related to the use of this weapon are irrelevant and biased. Taking into account the vast existing experience in expert work in this field new attempts to go back to developing additional limitations for MOTAPMs in the Convention framework seem counter-productive. Our delegation opposes the renewal of separate expert work on the MOTAPMs issue.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair, I would like to assure all the participants to the meeting that our delegation is ready for most active and productive cooperation on the matters of our Convention.

Thank you for your attention.