Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, please allow me to begin by congratulating you on your election of the chairmanship of this important meeting. I believe that, with your experience and wisdom, you will guide this meeting to positive achievements. My delegation would like to assure you of our full support and cooperation.

Over the past three decades, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons has served as an essential foundation of conventional disarmament and arms control, by striking a delicate balance between the principles of international humanitarian law and the legitimate security concerns of the states parties. Also, as a dynamic framework instrument, the CCW has been able to respond effectively to progress in weapons technology and to the evolving nature of armed conflict.

In roughly one month, the historic Arms Trade Treaty is set to enter into force. As one of the original signatory states, the Republic of Korea is working earnestly towards the ratification of the Treaty at the earliest possible date. While the ATT is designed to curb the illicit trade of conventional weapons, the CCW aims at prohibiting or restricting the use of certain conventional weapons. Along these lines, we should work to strengthen the synergy between the ATT and the CCW in the area of conventional arms control.

Though faced with a still very volatile security situation, the Republic of Korea, as a State Party to the CCW, has been faithfully implementing the provisions contained the treaties and actively participating to both broaden and strengthen the CCW regime.
Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Korea fully supports the universalization of the CCW as one of our top priorities within the agenda. In this sense, we congratulate Iraq on becoming the States Parties to the CCW and all the annexed Protocols. We hope that its accession will encourage other countries to join the CCW system. We appreciate that three Presidents of the CCW meetings have been working on all States that are not yet parties. We also welcome the work by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Angela Kane, on States that have not yet joined the CCW, particularly those in Asia.

It is noteworthy that an in-depth and focused discussion on the issue of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWs) was held for the first time within the structure of the CCW, to which almost all key countries possessing significant robot technology are States Parties. We support the 2015 mandate for the meeting of experts on LAWs and look forward to continuing the process towards forging better common understanding on the relevant technology and its implications.

The Republic of Korea has diligently engaged in discussions on the implementation of international humanitarian law with regard to mines other than anti-personnel mines. My delegation is aware of and concerned about the humanitarian and developmental impact of the uncontrolled use of MOTAPM. In this regard, we take note of the outcome of the joint study undertaken by GICHD and SIPRI on the issue of anti-vehicle mines, which can provide a solid basis for further discussions within the context of the CCW.

In conclusion, my delegation firmly believes that the CCW is an invaluable asset to the international community and that we should further strengthen its relevance and effectiveness in conventional arms control. In this regard, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to all of the efforts put forward by the Implementation Support Unit this year.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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