Statement by Israel  
By Mr. Eitan Levon  
Representative to the Conference on Disarmament  
MOTAPM - CCW Meeting of States Parties  
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Mr. President,

Israel had participated constructively in the useful and informative GGE on MOTAPM held in 2012, headed by the able leadership of the Friend of the Chair, Mr. Jim Burke of Ireland. We would like to thank him again for his positive and important efforts. On that note, we would like to reiterate Israel's position on MOTAPM and on the opportunity to further exchange views on the subject in the CCW.

Israel had participated actively in the negotiations on the issue of MOTAPM which took place between 2002 and 2006, with the aim of reducing the humanitarian suffering which may be caused by irresponsible and indiscriminate use of these weapons, while recognizing the continuing military necessity and legitimacy of the use of mines by states, including MOTAPM, for their defense. We have done so with the hope that the 5-year long discussions in the CCW will yield an understanding and agreement regarding the regulation of the use of MOTAPMs.
In this context, Israel associated itself with the declaration made on behalf of a group of states, at the end of the Third Review Conference of the CCW in 2006, regretting the CCW's inability to adopt by consensus a new Protocol on MOTAPM. The declaration announced Israel's and other states' intention to adopt, as a matter of national policy, certain practices limiting the use and transfer of MOTAPM.

In particular, Israel welcomed those provisions in the said declaration which prohibited the transfer of MOTAPM to terrorists and states sponsoring them, which consistently use them to target military and civilian objects alike, as well as utilize them as a source of explosives for IEDs.

In addition to the statement made on behalf of the group, Israel has also made a separate declaration on this issue whereby it emphasized, inter alia, its understanding that the group declaration includes the necessary distinction between those military practices which prevail during a time of conflict and those practices which apply in other situations. This reflects the understanding prevailing in the room throughout the negotiation process.

Mr. President,

Looking forward, Israel would like to see the issue of MOTAPM discussed further in the CCW, provided it takes into account the necessary balance between military and humanitarian considerations and has realistic
prospects of advancing the issue further. Perhaps during further deliberations a way could be found to bridge over existing gaps, in terms of substance as well as form. Much progress has already been achieved over the course of prior negotiations and deliberations, which would hopefully assist focused discussions on the specific issues which need further consideration.

Thank you, Mr. President.