



Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

Review Conference

Geneva, 12 – 16 December 2016

Statement on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM) by

Col Jim Burke

Ireland

Thank you Chair.

The issue of mines other than anti-personnel mines has been on the CCW agenda continuously since the 2nd Review Conference in 2001. Ireland views the question of MOTAPM as one of continuing humanitarian urgency. We were pleased to co-fund the GICHD – SIPRI study on the Humanitarian and Developmental Impact of Anti-Vehicle Mines which was published in 2014 and also to participate in an informal meeting on MOTAPM held in Geneva in November 2015 which was co-hosted by UNODA, UNMAS and GICHD. This Meeting was attended by over 50 states and a broad spectrum of relevant international organisations and NGOs. The report on this meeting is available and was submitted to the Prep Com to this Conference last August. It provides a comprehensive and objective overview including military utility and humanitarian risk and would be a valuable addition to the work of this conference. It is clear

from these initiatives and other reports from the field that there is a continuing record of humanitarian harm arising from MOTAPM use in many contemporary armed conflicts.

My delegation believes that the limited provisions on MOTAPM in Amended Protocol II have not proved adequate to address the humanitarian harm arising from their use. At the 4th Review Conference in 2011 Ireland was happy to co-sponsor a proposal to hold an expert meeting on MOTAPM in 2012. That meeting saw a high participation from states, international organisations and NGOs. We believe, in the light of the continuing evidence of humanitarian harm and of continuing civilian fatalities arising from use of this weapon, it is now time to continue this expert work.

Accordingly my delegation has circulated for the consideration of States Parties a draft proposal for a mandate which is now co-sponsored by a growing list of states parties including Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, *Cameroon*, Canada, Croatia, Ecuador, Finland, Italy, *Mexico*, Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Republic of Moldova, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States to authorise a group of governmental experts for up to five days to ‘to discuss further the implementation of international humanitarian law with regard to mines other than anti-personnel mines’.

My delegation welcomes consultation with other states parties on the proposal and we are open to suggestions for adjustments or amendments to the text including inter alia on status, task and duration of the proposed meeting of experts, taking into account the views of other states parties and the financial realities confronting the CCW.

Thank you Mr Chairman.