

Explanation of vote on the resolution entitled “Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions” A/C.1/71/L.22

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation has abstained on the resolution “**Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions**” contained in the document L.22.

Pakistan participated in the Review Conference on Cluster Munitions last year as an observer. It is important to note that the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) was negotiated outside the United Nations System. As a matter of principle, Pakistan does not support efforts to conclude important international treaties, especially those related to arms control, outside the UN framework.

Pakistan feels that multilateral framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons is the most appropriate forum for considering the issue of cluster munitions. The strength of the CCW lies in its legal framework that strikes the delicate balance between the need to minimize human suffering without sacrificing the legitimate security interests of States. Pakistan participated actively and constructively in the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) under the CCW framework in 2011, which held substantive discussions on a draft protocol on Cluster Munitions. It is unfortunate that the negotiating process bore no fruit in the end.

Pakistan considers cluster munitions as legitimate weapons with recognized military value in our regional context. We, therefore, look at the military utility of cluster munitions differently from states that enjoy peaceful neighbourhood.

Pakistan supports international efforts to address the issue of irresponsible and indiscriminate use of cluster munitions, and as such welcomes efforts to mitigate their negative consequences. Pakistan has never used cluster munitions in any military conflict or internal operations, and is strongly opposed to their use against civilians. Strict adherence to the International Humanitarian Law would help address the humanitarian concerns arising from the indiscriminate use of cluster munitions. Pakistan also supports efforts for improving reliability of cluster munitions so that the issue of explosive remnants of war is addressed.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.