



## **POSITION PAPER**



**COUNTRY** - INDIA

**COMMITTEE** - United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

**AGENDA** - The Threat of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) Especially During War Situations.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are homemade bombs that can be triggered by various means, such as pressure plates, remote controls, or timers. They are often used by non-state actors, such as terrorists or insurgents to target civilians, military personnel, or infrastructure.

India, as a responsible member of the United Nations Security Council, acknowledges the severity of the threat posed by IEDs, particularly during war situations. India is deeply concerned about the use of IEDs as they violate international humanitarian law. India recognizes the importance of addressing this issue as it poses a significant risk to the lives of both military personnel and civilians, undermines peace and stability, and hinders post-conflict reconstruction efforts. India firmly believes that concerted global action is necessary to effectively combat the proliferation and use of IEDs.

### **IED ATTACKS IN THE PAST**

India has been a victim of IED attacks, such as the 2006 Mumbai train bombings, the 2008 Jaipur bombings, and the 2019 Pulwama attack. India has also faced the challenge of IEDs in its counterterrorism and counter-insurgency operations in Jammu, Kashmir, and the Northeast region. Apart from these, the world has seen devastating and significant destruction caused by IEDs in history, such as The Iraq War (2003-2011), The Afghanistan War (2001-2021), The Sri Lankan Civil War (1983-2009), The Lebanese Civil War (1975-1990), The Yemen Civil War (2015-present) and many more. IEDs were responsible for 43% of civilian casualties in Afghanistan in 2020 according to UNAMA. IEDs were the reason for the 59% of civilian casualties in Iraq in 2019 according to UNMAS. Thus, India believes that the international community must work together to prevent and combat the menace of IEDs, and to assist the affected countries and populations.

## ACTIONS TAKEN BY INDIA

- The Indian Government has enacted the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, of 1967, and the National Investigation Agency Act, and these provide a legal framework to deal with terrorist activities and the usage of IEDs.
- India has designed the Arms Act, of 1959, which regulates the manufacture, possession, acquisition, use, sale, and transport of firearms, and explosives in India, which includes the use of IEDs.
- India has strengthened its border security measures to prevent the infiltration of terrorists and the smuggling of explosives used in IEDs.
- India has invested in research and development to develop advanced technologies and equipment to detect and neutralize IEDs. This includes the use of bomb disposal robots (Daksh Mini), electronic jammers, and sniffer dogs trained to detect explosives.

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS TAKEN

- Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW): This framework treaty requires states to clear and remove explosive remnants after armed conflicts. It takes steps to prevent and minimize the use of IEDs.
- United Nations Security Council Resolutions has issued several resolutions addressing the threat posed by IEDs. For example, Resolution 2349 (2017)
- International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) focuses on the effective clearance of landmines, and other explosive hazards, including IEDs.
- Regional and Bilateral Agreements: Many countries have entered into regional or bilateral agreements to address security concerns and combat the use of IEDs.
- To secure global supply chains and enhance public safety, the WCO has partnered with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to launch Programme Global Shield.

## CONCLUSION/ RECOMMENDATIONS

The delegate of India concludes this position paper by reaffirming its commitment to combat the threat of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), especially during war situations. The threat of IEDs is a serious challenge to global security. India is committed to working with the other countries to address this challenge.

India urges the international community to adopt a comprehensive and coordinated approach for enhancing cooperation and assistance among the states to address this agenda collectively. This approach should encompass military, law enforcement, and civilian measures.

India is also committed to sharing information and best practices with other countries. Here are some solutions: -

1. India suggests deploying Artificial Intelligence based sensors, robots, and drones that can conduct intelligence-based raids and neutralize IEDs in various environments. Additionally, training and awareness programs should be conducted for the personnel involved in IED detection and clearance operations to improve their skills and safety.
2. India encourages addressing the root causes and drivers of the violent extremism that motivate the use of IEDs as a tactic of asymmetric warfare. This could involve engaging in dialogue and negotiation with the groups that resort to IED attacks, offering them political and economic incentives to join the peace process.
3. India recommends the establishment of an UN-led global network of experts on IEDs, who can provide timely and accurate advice, analysis, and recommendations to member states on how to prevent, detect, mitigate, and respond to IED incidents.
4. India proposes, to the committee, the establishment of a global database on IED incidents, perpetrators, victims, and countermeasures.
5. India demands a comprehensive treaty that bans the production, transfer, and use of IEDs and their components. The treaty should also establish a verification mechanism and a sanctions regime for non-compliance. Also, the countries that do not abide by the treaty and are involved in using IEDs should be reprimanded.

***India is confident that, by working together, we can reduce the threat of IEDs and make the world a safer place.***