

Sixth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

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Agenda item 20

Consideration and adoption of the final documents

Final Document of the Sixth Review Conference

Part I

I. Introduction

1. The First Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) agreed, *inter alia*, that “future review conferences should be held more frequently, with consideration to be given to holding a review conference every five years.” (CCW/CONF.I/16, Part I, Annex III, Final Declaration, Article 8).
2. The Second Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention agreed, *inter alia*, that future review conferences should continue to be held on a regular basis. In this connection, the Conference decided, consistent with Article 8.3 (c) of the Convention, “to convene a further Conference five years following the entry into force of the amendments adopted at the Second Review Conference, but in any case not later than 2006, with preparatory meetings starting as early as 2005, if necessary.” (CCW/CONF.II/2, Part II, Final Declaration, Article 8).
3. The Third Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention “[...] recalled their agreement reached by the Second Review Conference in 2001 in reviewing Article 8 of the Convention.” (CCW/CONF.III/11, Part II, Article 8).
4. The Fourth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) agreed that “review conferences should continue to be held on a regular basis”, as contained in paragraph 3 of the review of Article 8 of the Convention as stipulated in its Final Document (CCW/CONF.IV/4/Add.1)5.
5. The Fifth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) recalled the “agreement reached at all four previous Review Conferences that such conferences should continue to be held on a regular basis,” as contained in paragraph 50 of its Final Document (CCW/CONF.V/10).
6. Due to the extraordinary circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties, originally planned to be held in 2020, did not take place, and technical decisions (CCW/2020/1) were adopted through a silence procedure on 3rd May 2021. Paragraph 3(f) of the decisions stipulated that the Sixth Review Conference would be held from 13 to 17 December 2021, and that its Preparatory Committee would meet from 6 to 8 September 2021. The decisions also designated Ambassador Yann Hwang of



France, Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, as President of the Sixth Review Conference.

II. Organization of the Sixth Review Conference

7. The Sixth Review Conference was held in Geneva from 13 to 17 December 2021.
8. On 13 December 2021, the Conference was opened by Ambassador Robbert Gabriëlse, Chairperson of the 2020 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention.
9. At its first plenary meeting, on 13 December 2021, the Conference confirmed the nomination by acclamation of Ambassador Yann Hwang of France as President of the Sixth Review Conference.
10. The Conference adopted its Agenda as recommended by technical decisions of 3 May 2021 (CCW/2020/1) and endorsed by the Preparatory Committee (CCW/CONF.VI/PC/3).
11. The Conference adopted the Rules of Procedure, as recommended by the Preparatory Committee of the Sixth Review Conference (CCW/CONF.VI/PC/3).
12. The Conference confirmed the nomination of Ms. Radha Day, Chief of Service a.i. of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, Geneva Branch, as the Secretary General of the Sixth Review Conference. Ms. Heegyun Jung, Political Affairs Officer, CCW Implementation Support Unit, served as the Secretary of the Conference. Ms. Juliana Helou van der Berg and Ms. Sophie Guillermin-Golet, Associate Political Affairs Officers of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) Geneva Branch, served in the Secretariat of the Conference.
13. The Conference adopted its Programme of Work (CCW/CONF.VI/2) as recommended by the Preparatory Committee. In accordance with Rule 35 of the Rules of Procedure, the Conference decided to distribute its work between the two Main Committees as follows:
 - Main Committee I: Review the scope and operation of the Convention and its annexed Protocols; consideration of any proposal for the Convention and its existing protocols; and preparation and consideration of the final documents;
 - Main Committee II: Consideration of proposals for additional protocols to the Convention and consideration of emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), and preparation and consideration of the provisions of the final document pertaining to LAWS.
14. Pursuant to Rule 6 of its Rules of Procedure, the Conference elected ten Vice-Presidents from the following High Contracting Parties: China, Georgia, Iraq, Israel, Latvia, Panama, Peru, Poland, Spain and Sweden. The Conference also elected the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Credentials Committee, the two Main Committees and the Drafting Committee, as follows:
 - (a) Main Committee I Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson: Ambassador Yuri Borrisov Sterk of Bulgaria and Mr. Alonso Martinez of Mexico.
 - (b) Main Committee II Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson: Ambassador Maria Teresa Almojuela of the Philippines and Mr. Aleksandr Pytalev of Belarus.
 - (c) Drafting Committee: Ambassador Yann Hwang of France and Mr. Muhammad Omar of Pakistan.
 - (d) Credentials Committee: Mr. Laurent Masméjean of Switzerland as Chairperson, Brigadier General Emmanuel Kazahura of Uganda as Vice-Chairperson, and Mr. Florian Antohi of Romania, Mr. Patrick Hassan Morlai Koroma, Esq of Sierra Leone and Mr. Simon Cleobury of the United Kingdom as members.
15. The Conference noted the decision of one High Contracting Party to withdraw from the CCW Eastern European Group (EEG) as contained in CCW/CONF.VI/WP.4 and to

establish a new regional group under the Convention, consisting of that High Contracting Party, and functioning in accordance with the practice of the CCW on a non-discriminatory basis as the other regional groups. The Conference reaffirms the importance of the principle of equitable geographical representation within the CCW. The Conference noted that this High Contracting Party indicated that this withdrawal does not set a precedent, concerns only the work within the Convention and has no consequences outside the CCW, with regard to the work of UN bodies or the membership in the Eastern European Group within the UN.

III. Participation at the Conference

16. The following High Contracting Parties to the Convention participated in the work of the Conference: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Zambia.

17. The following Signatory States also participated in the work of the Conference: Egypt and Nigeria.

18. The following States not parties to the Convention participated as observers: Angola and Namibia.

19. The representatives of the European Union, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) participated in the work of the Conference.

20. The following non-governmental organizations and entities participated in the work of the Conference: Amnesty International, Campaign to Stop Killer Robots (Article 36, DFG-VK, Facing Finance, Human Rights Watch, Committee of 100, Mines Action Canada, PAX, Pax Christi International, Pax Christi Vlaanderen, Protection, Red de Seguridad Humana para América Latina y el Caribe - SEHLAC, Sustainable Peace and Development Organization, Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - WILPF, and World Council of Churches), Center for Governance of AI (GovAI), Center for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR) at James Madison University, Future of Life Institute, Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP), Humanity and Inclusion Handicap International, German Institute for International Peace Affairs (SWP)/International Panel on the Regulation of Autonomous Weapons (iPRAW), Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Norwegian Peace Association, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and University of Edinburgh.

IV. Work of the Sixth Review Conference

21. Under the presidency of Ambassador Yann Hwang of France, the Conference held four plenary meetings.

22. The Conference noted with appreciation the Report of the Preparatory Committee (CCW/CONF.VI/PC/3).

23. The Conference received a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Antonio Guterres, which was delivered by Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

24. The Chair of the 2021 Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems presented its report to be considered by the Conference. The Chair of the 2021 Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, under his own responsibility and initiative, has prepared a Chairperson's summary contained in annex III of the document CCW/GGE.1/2021/CRP.1. The Conference noted that this paper had not been agreed and had no status. It was the Chair's view that the Chairperson's summary could assist delegations and could constitute a useful basis for future work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems.

25. The following delegations participated in the general exchange of views: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, India, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lithuania, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria (On behalf of the African Group), North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (on national capacity and on behalf of the members and observers of the Non-Aligned Movement that are High Contracting Parties to the CCW), Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, European Union, United Nations Mine Action Service (on behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action), Future of Life Institute, Human Rights Watch, ICRC, and Mines Action Canada.

26. Main Committee I held meetings on 14, 15 and 16 December 2021 and adopted its report on 16 December 2021.

27. Main Committee II held meetings on 14, 16 and 17 December 2021 and adopted its report on 17 December 2021.

28. The Credentials Committee held meetings on 13, 14 and 16 December 2021. The Chairperson of the Committee, Mr. Laurent Masmejean of Switzerland, presented its report to the Conference.

29. The Drafting Committee was not convened.

V. Decisions and Recommendations of the Conference

30. At its plenary meeting on 17 December 2021 the Conference approved the report of the Credentials Committee and adopted the draft resolution as contained in CCW/CONF.VI/CC/1.

31. At its plenary meeting, on 17 December 2021, the Conference approved the reports of Main Committee I and Main Committee II, as contained in CCW/CONF.VI/MC.I/3 and CCW/CONF.VI/MC.II/3.

32. At its final plenary meeting, on 17 December 2021, the Conference adopted its Final Declaration, as orally amended, as contained in the Final Document, Part II. The Conference also adopted the estimated costs of the Group of Governmental Experts on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), as contained in CCW/CONF.VI/7 and the estimated costs of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention in 2022, as contained in CCW/CONF.VI/8. In accordance with the decision to adopt a five-year budget as part of the financial measures, the Conference also adopted the 2023-2025 budget as contained in CCW/CONF.VI/9 and as orally amended, as well as the estimated costs of the Seventh Review Conference and the Preparatory Committee meeting to take place in 2026, as contained in CCW/CONF.VI/10 and as orally amended.

33. At its final plenary meeting, on 17 December 2021, the Conference decided to elect Ambassador Zbigniew Czech of Poland as Chairperson of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention to be held in 2022.

34. At its final plenary meeting, on 17 December 2021, the Conference adopted the Provisional Agenda of the 2022 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, as contained in Annex II.

35. At its final plenary meeting, on 17 December 2021, the Conference adopted its Final Document, as contained in CCW/CONF.VI/CRP.3, as orally amended, which will be issued as document CCW/CONF.VI/11.

Part II

Final Declaration

The High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, which met in Geneva from 13 to 17 December 2021, to review the scope and operation of the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto and to consider any proposal for amendments of the Convention or of the existing Protocols, as well as proposals for additional protocols relating to other categories of conventional weapons not covered by the existing annexed Protocols,

Recalling the Declarations adopted by the First Review Conference in 1996, the Second Review Conference in 2001, the Third Review Conference in 2006, the Fourth Review Conference in 2011 and the Fifth Review Conference in 2016,

Reaffirming their conviction that the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects is a major instrument of international humanitarian law, which contributes to both preventing and reducing the suffering of civilians and combatants,

Recognising that most major armed conflicts are non-international in character, and that such conflicts have been brought within the scope of the Convention and its annexed Protocols by the amendment of Article 1 of the Convention,

Emphasizing their determination to promote the universality of the Convention and its annexed Protocols with the goal of achieving global adherence and the importance of all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention and its Protocols without delay,

Emphasizing also the importance of the comprehensive implementation of the Convention and its annexed Protocols including through the dissemination of information to armed forces and the civilian population, the adoption of appropriate technical measures and legislative provisions concerning both the type and use of weapons, and measures, including legal measures where appropriate for the prevention, enforcement, investigation and suppression of breaches of the regime,

Recognizing the important role international cooperation and assistance can play in the implementation of the Convention and its annexed Protocols,

Recognizing the importance of a balanced involvement of women and men in the meetings under the CCW and its Protocols in support of the efforts of High Contracting Parties to address the issues related to the CCW and its Protocols.

Acknowledging the key role of the Convention in monitoring ongoing and new developments in weapons, means and methods of war that may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects, and in related science and technology, with a view to ensuring the continued relevance, integrity and adequacy of the Convention,

Recognising also the crucial role of the International Committee of the Red Cross and encouraging it to continue to work to facilitate further ratifications and accessions to the Convention and its annexed Protocols, to disseminate their contents and to lend its expertise to future Conferences and other meetings related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols,

Acknowledging the invaluable humanitarian efforts of international, regional and non-governmental organisations in mitigating the humanitarian impact of armed conflicts,

Recalling the obligation of all parties to an armed conflict to take all feasible precautions in the use of mines including anti-personnel mines and mines other than anti-personnel mines, as defined by the original Protocol II and the Amended Protocol II in the framework of the Convention, with a view to avoiding and in any event to minimizing incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians and damage to civilian objects,

Deeply concerned at the humanitarian and development problems caused by the presence of explosive remnants of war, which constitute a danger to the civilian population as well as an obstacle to reconstruction, restoration of normal social conditions and economic development and in this context reaffirming the need to further develop international cooperation and assistance with this respect,

Acknowledging the foreseeable effects of explosive remnants of war on civilian populations as a factor to be considered in applying the International Humanitarian Law rules of precautions, distinction and proportionality,

Deeply concerned at the indiscriminate use and effects of IED and at the increasing global impact of IED attacks worldwide, in particular through the perpetration of terrorist acts and the negative impact of these attacks on socioeconomic development, infrastructure and freedom of movement on the security and stability of States, and thus underlining the need to address this issue in order to achieve relevant goals and targets under the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development;

I.

Solemnly declare:

1. Their commitment to respect and comply fully, in accordance with the norms and principles of international law, with the objectives and provisions of the Convention and its annexed Protocols to which they are party as authoritative international instruments governing the use of certain conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects.
2. Their acknowledgement that all parties to a conflict have an obligation to comply with international humanitarian law during an armed conflict and for High Contracting Parties to apply, inter alia, the prohibitions and restrictions of the Convention and its annexed Protocols to which they are party.
3. Their desire that all High Contracting Parties respect and ensure respect for the revised scope of application of the Convention to the fullest extent possible, and their determination to encourage all High Contracting Parties which have not yet done so to ratify, accept, approve or accede to, as appropriate, the amendment to Article 1 without delay.
4. Their determination to encourage all States to become parties, as soon as possible, to the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I), the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996 (Amended Protocol II), the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III), the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV), and the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) and to encourage all High Contracting Parties to respect and ensure respect for the substantive provisions of these Protocols.

5. Their commitment to implement fully the Convention and its annexed Protocols to which they are party, and to keep the provisions of the Convention and its annexed Protocols under review in order to ensure their provisions remain relevant to modern conflicts.
6. Their determination to consult and cooperate with each other in order to facilitate the full implementation of the obligations contained in the Convention and its annexed Protocols to which they are party, thereby promoting compliance.
7. Their commitment to the full implementation of, and compliance with, the Convention and its annexed Protocols to which they are party, and in this respect, to fulfil their legal, technical and reporting obligations.
8. Their commitment to continue to contribute to the further development of international humanitarian law and in this context to keep under review the development of new weapons and uses of weapons, which may have indiscriminate effects or cause unnecessary suffering.
9. Their determination to minimise the humanitarian harm and to ensure full compliance with IHL, in the use of mines, including anti-personnel mines and mines other than anti-personnel mines, as defined by the original Protocol II and the Amended Protocol II in the framework of the Convention, and to take appropriate measures before, during and after active hostilities to enhance protection of civilians, and to take appropriate measures to facilitate post-conflict clearance operations.
10. Their determination to strengthen the respect for international humanitarian law and to address, in the context and objectives of the Convention and its annexed Protocols, the challenges presented by the use of conventional weapons during armed conflict, inter alia in areas where there are concentrations of civilians and their impact on civilians.
11. Their determination to urge and support States which do not already do so to conduct reviews to determine whether any new weapon, means or methods of warfare would be prohibited under international humanitarian law or other rules of international law applicable to them.
12. Their continuing commitment to assist, to the extent feasible, humanitarian demining missions, operating with the consent of the host State and/or the relevant High Contracting Parties to the conflict, in particular by providing all necessary information in their possession covering the location of all known minefields, mined areas, mines, explosive remnants of war, booby-traps and other devices in the area in which the mission is performing its functions.
13. Their acknowledgement of the invaluable contributions that High Contracting Parties to Protocols of the Convention make to providing care and rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of victims of explosive remnants of war and their encouragement of such High Contracting Parties to continue such assistance to the extent possible and their acknowledgement of the complementarity of these efforts with efforts in the area of victim assistance under other mine-action related conventions.
14. Their acknowledgement of the significant contribution of the Group of Experts of Amended Protocol II on the issue of IED, which has inter alia contributed to raising awareness of the worldwide threat posed by IED.
15. Their commitment to continue to address the problem of IED in the context of Amended Protocol II, acknowledging of the need to address the threat posed by IED in relevant fora, at appropriate levels and by multiple stakeholders, and stressing the need for coordination with various existing initiatives and approaches relating to IED.
16. Their acknowledgement of the invaluable contribution of the Sponsorship Programme to promote the universalization and implementation of the Convention and its annexed Protocols, and express their appreciation for the administrative support provided by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining to the Programme.
17. Their acknowledgement of the value of the conclusions and recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts, and of the endorsement by the Meeting of High Contracting

Parties in 2019 of the Guiding Principles affirmed by the Group of Governmental Experts on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems.

18. Their affirmation that international humanitarian law continues to apply fully to all weapons systems, including the potential development and use of lethal autonomous weapons systems.

19. Their recognition that a weapon system based on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems must not be used if it is of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering, or if it is inherently indiscriminate, or is otherwise incapable of being used in accordance with international humanitarian law.

20. Their conviction that humans must at all times remain accountable in accordance with applicable international law for decisions on the use of force.

21. Their recognition that the CCW offers an appropriate framework for dealing with the issue of emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems within the context of the objectives and purposes of the Convention, which seeks to strike a balance between military necessity and humanitarian considerations.

22. Their renewed determination to continue and intensify their efforts to address emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems, taking into consideration, inter alia, the legal, military and technological aspects bearing in mind ethical perspectives.

23. Their affirmation that international law, in particular the United Nations Charter and international humanitarian law as well as relevant ethical perspectives, should guide the continued work of the Group of Governmental Experts.

II.

With the aim of continuing to advance the Convention and its Protocols over the next review cycle, the Conference reached consensus on the following actions:

Universalization

24. The officeholders of the CCW, Protocol V and Amended Protocol II are to promote universalization of the Convention and its Protocols, and specifically to address States not party, coordinate their activities giving consideration, inter alia, to the elaboration of an action plan and, under the Standing Agenda Item on Universalization of the annual Meeting of High Contracting Parties, to report on their efforts and the progress made in this area.

25. High Contracting Parties under the Standing Agenda Item on Universalization are encouraged to report on their initiatives to promote universalization of the Convention and its Protocols and to consider adhering to the Protocols to which they are not yet a party and report on the steps taken to do so.

26. High Contracting Parties which have not yet done so are to consider adhering to the 2001 amendments to Article 1, which extends Protocols I, II, III and IV to non-international armed conflicts.

27. The Implementation Support Unit is to provide the necessary administrative and substantive support to the officeholders and High Contracting Parties in their efforts to promote universalization, gather information on States not yet party and work towards the objective of universal adherence to the Convention and its Protocols.

Strengthening national implementation and compliance

28. High Contracting Parties reaffirm their commitment to the compliance mechanism for the Convention and its annexed Protocols as agreed at the Third Review Conference and the Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention in 2007.

29. High Contracting Parties are called on to submit compliance reports. The Chairperson of the annual Meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention is tasked with encouraging higher rates of compliance reporting and is required to report on his or her efforts in fulfilment of this task under the Standing Agenda Item on Compliance of the annual Meeting of High Contracting Parties.

30. High Contracting Parties are to reinforce their efforts to disseminate information on the Convention and its Protocols to their armed forces and civilian population.

31. High Contracting Parties are to consider and share their experiences on providing assistance and cooperation for the implementation of the Protocols.

Sponsorship Programme

32. High Contracting Parties in a position to do so are encouraged to contribute to the Sponsorship Programme. The Steering Committee of the Sponsorship Programme is to continue to report on its activities and finances each year to the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties.

Implementation Support Unit

33. The Implementation Support Unit is to *work* effectively and efficiently and in its annual report to the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to continue to report on the estimated costs versus the actual costs of the meetings and conferences of the preceding year.

34. In order to further promote financial transparency and accountability and taking into account the practice of multilateral and other organizations, *requests* the Implementation Support Unit to provide regular updates on the status of High Contracting Parties' financial contributions to the CCW and its Protocols and to submit a financial report on these matters to the annual Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to be circulated as an official document.

35. The Chairperson of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties is to report each year on the implementation of the above actions.

Financial issues related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols

36. High Contracting Parties and States not parties participating in the meetings of the Convention and its annexed Protocols declare their determination to ensure full compliance with all financial obligations under the Convention and its annexed Protocols as well as to explore measures that could reduce costs and improve the efficiency and financial stability of such meetings without prejudice to the Rules of Procedure and to their quality, and their commitment to address issues arising from outstanding contributions in a timely manner.

III.

The Conference takes the following decisions:

Decision 1

37. The Sixth Review Conference decides that the work of the open-ended Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems established by Decision 1 of the Fifth Review Conference as contained in document CCW/CONF.V/10, adhering to the agreed recommendations contained in document CCW/CONF.V/2, is to continue, to strengthen the Convention.

38. In the context of the objectives and purpose of the Convention, the Group is to consider proposals and elaborate, by consensus, possible measures, including taking into account the example of existing protocols within the Convention, and other options related to the normative and operational framework on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems, building upon the recommendations and conclusions of the Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal

autonomous weapon systems, and bringing in expertise on legal, military, and technological aspects.

39. International law, in particular the United Nations Charter and international humanitarian law, as well as relevant ethical perspectives should guide the continued work of the Group.

40. The rules of procedure of the Review Conference shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the Group.

41. The Group shall conduct its work and adopt its report by consensus and shall submit a report to the meeting of High Contracting Parties. The widest possible participation of all High Contracting Parties is to be promoted in accordance with the goals of the CCW Sponsorship Program.

42. The Group shall meet for 10 days in Geneva in 2022.

43. The GGE Chair will be designated by consensus through a written silence procedure.

Decision 2

44. The Sixth Review Conference of the CCW decides to adopt the consolidated financial measures as contained in Annex III, which may be reviewed during the review cycle of 2022-2026 by the Meetings of High Contracting Parties.

Decision 3

45. To continue the Sponsorship Programme.

Decision 4

46. To organize in 2022, in in-person format in accordance with the regular practice under CCW, in accordance with the relevant decisions taken by the Twenty-third Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II and the Fifteenth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, and subject to available resources, the following CCW related activities:

- (i) Group of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II on 20-21 July 2022;
- (ii) Meeting of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on 22 July 2022;
- (iii) Group of Governmental Experts of the High Contracting Parties related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) on 7-11 March 2022, and 25-29 July and adopted its estimated costs (CCW/CONF.VI/7);
- (iv) Sixteenth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on 14 November 2022;
- (v) Twenty-fourth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II on 15 November 2022;
- (vi) Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on 16-18 November 2022 and adopted its estimated costs (CCW/CONF.VI/8).

IV.

Review

The Conference:

47. *Reaffirms* that the right of the parties to an armed conflict to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited, and recalls the obligation to determine, in the study, development,

acquisition or adoption of a new weapon, means and method of warfare, whether its employment would, in some or all circumstances, be prohibited under any rule of international law applicable to the High Contracting Parties.

48. *Reaffirms* the need to continue, as appropriate, the codification and progressive development of the rules of international law applicable to certain conventional weapons which may be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects, and recalls the basic principle that reservations to the Convention or its Protocols must be in accordance with the object and purpose of the Convention or its Protocols, respectively.

49. *Underlines* the need to achieve universal adherence to the Convention and its annexed Protocols.

50. *Welcomes* recent ratifications and accessions to the Convention and its annexed Protocols and urges the High Contracting Parties to accord high priority to their diplomatic efforts to encourage further adherence with a view to achieving universal adherence as soon as possible.

Article 1

51. Notes the provisions of Article 1, as amended on 21 December 2001.

52. Calls upon High Contracting Parties which have not yet done so to ratify, accept, approve or accede to, as appropriate, the amendment to Article 1.

Article 2

53. Reaffirms that nothing in the Convention or its annexed Protocols shall be interpreted as detracting from other obligations imposed upon the High Contracting Parties by International Humanitarian Law.

Article 3

54. Notes the provisions of Article 3.

Article 4

55. Acknowledges that 125 High Contracting Parties have ratified, accepted, acceded or succeeded to the Convention.

56. Calls upon States which are not parties to this Convention to ratify, accept, approve or accede to, as appropriate, the Convention, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention.

Article 5

57. Notes the provisions of Article 5.

58. Recalls in particular the provisions of paragraph 3 of this Article, which stipulates that each of the Protocols annexed to the Convention shall enter into force six months after the date by which twenty States have notified their consent to be bound by it.

Article 6

59. Encourages international cooperation in the field of dissemination of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and recognizes the importance of multilateral collaboration relating to instruction, the exchange of experience at all levels, the exchange of instructors and the organization of joint seminars. The Conference underlines the importance of the High Contracting Parties' obligation to disseminate this Convention and its annexed Protocols by which they are bound and, in particular, to include the content in their programmes of military instruction at all levels.

60. Welcomes the work of the Sponsorship Programme to promote awareness and understanding of the Convention and its annexed Protocols.

61. Also welcomes the ongoing work of the Implementation Support Unit to produce promotional materials on the CCW and its Protocols and to maintain and update the CCW website.

Article 7

62. Notes the provisions of Article 7.

63. On compliance, the Conference welcomes the consensus reached on actions to reinforce implementation of the compliance mechanism of the Convention and its annexed Protocols.

Article 8

64. Notes the provisions of Article 8.

65. Welcomes the work of the open-ended Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems.

66. Recalls the consensus reached at all five previous Review Conferences that such conferences should continue to be held on a regular basis.

Article 9

67. Notes with satisfaction that the provisions of this Article have not been invoked.

Article 10

68. Notes the provisions of Article 10.

Article 11

69. Notes the provisions of Article 11.

Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I)

70. Notes the provisions of this Protocol.

Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) and Technical Annex to the Protocol

71. Notes the provisions of this Protocol.

Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996 (Amended Protocol II) and Technical Annex to the Protocol

72. The Conference notes the provisions of this Protocol.

73. The Conference reaffirms the commitment of the High Contracting Parties to take the necessary measures under this Protocol and to ensure the full and effective national implementation of the obligations under this Protocol.

74. The Conference welcomes the efforts of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II to reduce the indiscriminate effects of the use of mines, booby-traps and other devices and to ensure that any such weapons designed or of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering are never used.

75. The Conference welcomes the decision by the Tenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II in 2008, in the framework of revitalizing the work under Amended Protocol II and to further enhance its implementation, to establish an informal open-ended Group of Experts.

76. The Conference notes with satisfaction the activities conducted by the annual meetings of the Group of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II to review the operation and status of the Protocol, consider matters arising from reports by High Contracting Parties according to Article 13, paragraph 4 of Amended Protocol II and the

development of technologies to protect civilians against indiscriminate effects of mines, as well as the issue of Improvised Explosive Device(s) (IED).

77. The Conference takes note of the annual reporting obligations of the High Contracting Parties under Amended Protocol II and calls on the High Contracting Parties to fulfil these obligations in a timely, consistent and complete manner.

78. The Conference notes with satisfaction the continued substantive discussions on IED which provided the Group of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II the opportunity to engage actively on a topic relevant to the provisions of Amended Protocol II and their implementation. It has been the focus of the High Contracting Parties since 2009 to share experience on the scale of the humanitarian harm caused by IED and to consider efforts at the national, regional and international levels to defeat and prevent the unlawful use of IED and to reduce their indiscriminate effects through:

(a) Maintaining a compilation of existing technical guidelines, best practices, and other recommendations aiming at addressing the diversion or illicit use of materials which can be used for IED;

(b) Exchanging information on technical developments relevant to mitigating the threat posed by IED and the impact on civilians; and on risk awareness/public education campaigns;

(c) Exchanging information on IED incidents, and exploring solutions for automated information exchange, such as databases, portals or platforms;

(d) Keeping all High Contracting Parties apprised of all IED-relevant developments on other fora, so as to enable unity of actions;

(e) Agreeing on, and later updating, a one-time voluntary questionnaire with a view to enhancing information sharing, international cooperation and assistance and strengthening national capacities of the High Contracting Parties in mitigating the problem of IED, including through the establishment of a network of national points of contact.

79. The Conference recognizes the importance of a balanced involvement of women and men in the Group of Experts in support of its efforts to address the threats posed by IED.

80. The Conference welcomes the updated Declaration on Improvised Explosive Devices adopted by the Twenty-third Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II.

81. The Conference notes with satisfaction the decision by the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II to analyse the different reporting forms each year to improve the quality of reporting and of the information contained in the forms submitted.

82. The Conference also takes note of the decision by the Twelfth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II in 2010 to synchronize the submission of the national annual reports with the submission of national reports under Protocol V to the Convention. The submission date for both reports was set at 31st March of every year to allow for their consideration by the Group of Experts.

83. The Conference notes the consultations undertaken by the President-designate of the 21st Annual Conference of the HCP with delegations on possibilities to include discussions on good practices in the implementation of the Protocol with regard to Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines in particular with regard to the protection of civilians. The Conference also notes that divergent views remain among delegations on the need to continue the consideration of Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines in the framework of Amended Protocol II.

84. The Conference notes with satisfaction that, in accordance with Article 13 of Amended Protocol II, twenty-two Annual Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II have been held for the purpose of consultations and cooperation on all issues related to the Protocol. The 22nd Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, originally planned to be held in 2020, was not convened in view of extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

85. The Conference recalls that the deferral period provided for in paragraphs 2 (c) and 3 (c) of the Technical Annex, which allows High Contracting Parties to defer compliance with the requirements of Article 4 on detectability of anti-personnel mines and of Article 5 on self-destruction and self-deactivation of anti-personnel mines, expired on 3 December 2007.

86. The Conference acknowledges the valuable work of relevant agencies and bodies of the United Nations; the International Committee of the Red Cross pursuant to its mandate to protect and assist victims of armed conflict, and uphold IHL; the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining; international and regional governmental organizations as well as of non-governmental organizations in a number of fields relevant to Amended Protocol II, in particular the care and rehabilitation of mine victims, the implementation of mine awareness programmes and mine clearance.

87. The Conference recommends that future Annual Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II be held back-to-back with Meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention and the Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V.

Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III)

88. Notes the provisions of this Protocol and calls for their full implementation by all High Contracting Parties to the Protocol.

89. Notes the concerns raised by a number of High Contracting Parties over reports of use of incendiary weapons against civilians and condemns any use of incendiary weapons against civilians or civilian objects, and any other use incompatible with relevant rules of International Humanitarian Law, including provisions of Protocol III where applicable.

90. Calls on all parties to armed conflicts to respect relevant rules of International Humanitarian Law, including provisions of Protocol III where applicable.

Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV)

91. Notes the provisions of this Protocol and welcomes that there has been no confirmed use of blinding laser weapons. It also reminds High Contracting Parties of the need to take all feasible precautions, in the use of laser systems, to avoid incidence of permanent blindness to unenhanced vision, as required by Article 2.

Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) and Technical Annex to the Protocol

92. The Conference notes the provisions of this Protocol.

93. The Conference welcomes the efforts of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V to address the deleterious humanitarian effects of explosive remnants of war.

94. The Conference appreciates the fact that since the Fifth Review Conference 5 new High Contracting Parties joined the Protocol which brings the total number to 96 and reiterates the need for further vigorous efforts from High Contracting Parties, United Nations, international and regional organizations, International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations to promote universalization of the Protocol.

95. The Conference notes with appreciation achievements within Protocol V, especially the progress on the promotion and implementation of Articles 3 and 4, efforts to raise awareness of the needs of affected States in the area of cooperation and assistance; promotion of Article 8(2) and the Plan of Action on Victim Assistance along with the adoption of a reporting template on Victim Assistance; the discussion on clearance and technical assistance including on methods of ERW clearance; the discussion on the safe storage of munitions and the management of munitions sites; and that 47 High Contracting Parties have submitted a national report in 2021.

96. The Conference encourages the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V to continue with their efforts to encourage a higher rate of national reporting, including through consideration at the Meeting of Experts; to consider in-depth the clearance of explosive

remnants of war and generic preventive measures; and to prioritize the work on cooperation and assistance and victim assistance.

97. The Conference acknowledges the cooperative approach of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V and that this has been facilitated through the decision of the First Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V in 2007 to establish a mechanism for consultation and cooperation consisting of informal meetings of experts chaired by coordinators of which there have been nine meetings. Each year the High Contracting Parties shall determine the focus of the meetings of experts to be chaired by coordinators.

98. The Conference further acknowledges that, in accordance with Article 10 of Protocol V, fourteen Conferences of the High Contracting Parties have been held for the purpose of consultations and cooperation on all issues related to the operation of Protocol V. The Fourteenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, originally planned to be held in 2020, was not convened in view of extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

99. The Conference notes with appreciation the decision of the Thirteenth Conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V to appoint a Coordinator on Victim Assistance, also in view of liaising with other relevant legal instruments and fora, in order to ensure complementarity of efforts regarding victim assistance.

100. The Conference acknowledges the valuable contributions and work of relevant agencies and bodies of the United Nations, relevant international and regional organizations, International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, as well as of non-governmental organizations in a number of fields relevant to Protocol V, in particular the care and rehabilitation of victims of explosive remnants of war, risk education, and clearance, removal or destruction of unexploded ordnance and abandoned explosive ordnance.

101. The Conference recommends that future Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V be held back-to-back with Meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention and the Annual Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II.

Annex I

Agenda of the Sixth Review Conference (As adopted at the first plenary meeting on 13 December 2021)

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Confirmation of the nomination of the President-designate.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
5. Confirmation of the nomination of the Secretary-General of the Conference.
6. Organization of work including that of the subsidiary bodies of the Conference.
7. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the Review Conference, Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the main Committees, the Drafting Committee, and the Credentials Committee.
8. Appointment of the Credentials Committee.
9. Submission of the report of the Preparatory Committee.
10. Submission of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts.
11. General exchange of views.
12. Review of the scope and operation of the Convention and its annexed protocols.
13. Consideration of any proposal for the Convention and its existing protocols.
14. Consideration of proposals for additional protocols to the Convention and other Proposals.
15. Financial issues related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols and relations between High Contracting Parties (HCP) and United Nations.
16. Other matters.
17. Report of the Credentials Committee.
18. Reports of the Main Committees.
19. Report of the Drafting Committee.
20. Consideration and adoption of the final documents.
21. Closing of the Conference.

Annex II

Provisional Agenda of the 2022 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention

(As recommended by the 2021 Sixth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties at its final plenary meeting on 17 December 2021)

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Confirmation of the rules of procedure
4. Confirmation of the nomination of the Secretary-General of the Meeting
5. Organization of work, including that of any subsidiary body of the Meeting
6. General exchange of views
7. Consideration of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS)
8. Financial issues related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols
9. Issues related to the Implementation Support Unit
10. Emerging Issues in the context of the objectives and purposes of the Convention
11. Universalization of the Convention and its annexed Protocols
12. Consideration of the report of the CCW Sponsorship Programme
13. Status of implementation of and compliance with the Convention and its Protocols
14. Other matters
15. Consideration and adoption of the final report
16. Closing of the Meeting

Annex III

Consolidated financial measures

I. Foreword

These CCW Consolidated Financial Measures provide an overarching policy framework. As such, this document forms the basis of the CCW financial measures, to which High Contracting Parties will be able to refer as needed.

These measures incorporate many of the rules adopted by the Convention in the past and propose language in line with the development in the practice. It supersedes the previously agreed rules.

These Consolidated Financial Measures will be read on conjunction with, and do not purport to amend the CCW Rules of Procedure. This document is also consistent with the UN Financial Rules.

II. Part I: General

Paragraph 1.01 – Applicability

These financial measures concern meetings of High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and any subsidiary bodies those meetings may establish, as well as the funding of the Implementation Support Unit in relation to those meetings.

Paragraph 1.02 – Terminology

For the purpose of the common understanding of these Consolidated Financial Measures, the following terms will be defined as follow:

annual adopted budget: approximation of the planned costs the Convention computed on the basis of available information, adopted by High Contracting Parties for the following funding year.

arrears: situation of a High Contracting Party or a State non-party to the Convention that fails to pay its assessed contributions before the end of the funding year, i.e. December 31st.

budgetary cycle: phases needed by the Convention to come up with a budget.

credits: difference between assessed budget and actual expenditure.

FRMS: Financial Resources Management Service.

funded liabilities: part of the credit available in the cash balance of the closed accounts calculated as the difference between the assessed budget and the actual expenditure, less amounts due from High Contracting Parties who have not paid their assessments for the year in question.

funding year: the funding period is 12 months, from January 1st to December 31st.

ISU: Implementation Support Unit.

quinquennial provisional budget: estimated budget over 5 years, within the time period between two Review Conferences.

unfunded liabilities: part of the credit not available in the cash balance of the closed accounts, equivalent to the amounts due from High Contracting Parties who have not paid their assessments for the year in question.

UNODA: United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

UNOG: United Nations Office at Geneva.

WCF: Working Capital Fund provides liquidity during the financial year with a view to ensuring the stability of ISU support to the Convention.

Paragraph 1.03 – Administrative authority over the CCW’s Consolidated Financial Measures

Paragraph 1.03.1 – High Contracting Parties

High Contracting Parties are responsible for monitoring the financial status of the CCW. They will decide on the provisions to be implemented in financial matters in accordance with these Consolidated Financial Measures.

Paragraph 1.03.2 – Non-State Parties to the Convention

Non-State Parties to the Convention will have no responsibility in the decision-making process of these Consolidated Financial Measures.

Paragraph 1.03.3 – Implementation Support Unit

ISU will support the ongoing and evolving implementation of the Convention. It may be consulted on financial advice.

ISU will report to the annual meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on the operation of ISU on the status of the Convention’s finances.

III. Part II: Budget

Paragraph 2.01 – Structure of the budget

In order to manage the Convention's budget, High Contracting Parties will call on the Secretariat to submit two sets of budget estimates to High Contracting Parties to be considered for adoption as follows:

- on Review Conferences years, High Contracting Parties will call on the ISU to submit a set of quinquennial provisional budgets to be considered for adoption, that will be invoiced on an annual basis, in line with Paragraph 3.02.01 and 3.02.2, and that covers the following second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth years of the Review Conference;
- in case High Contracting Parties would like to amend a yearly share of the quinquennial provisional budget, over the five funding years following the Review Conferences, on the meetings of High Contracting Parties, High Contracting Parties will call on the Secretariat to submit a set of 1-year estimated budgets to be considered for adoption, and that covers the following funding year.

Paragraph 2.02 – Calculation of the quinquennial provisional budget

Forecasted costs of the quinquennial estimated budget are computed on forecasted workload requirements for the next 5 years using current standard rates, adjusted for forecasted annual inflation rates.

Paragraph 2.03 – Budgets proposals documents’ content and format

Paragraph 2.03.1 – Cash flows included in the budget

The costs of preparing and holding meetings of High Contracting Parties or any subsidiary bodies they may establish will comprise:

- The costs of the Secretariat’s activities, recognizing that these activities are to be performed by the Implementation Support Unit according to the decision in this regard of the 2009 Meeting of High Contracting Parties, as reported in the Appendix.
- The costs of the: documentation, including translation; in-session interpretation; any summary records; conference equipment and supplies; IT and financial support; and other associated services.

- Costs associated with the remuneration of the Implementation Support Unit.
- The budget will also include the Convention's forecasted revenues based on the average collection rate of the previous 3 years.

Paragraph 2.03.2 – Budgets' format

High Contracting Parties will invite ISU to submit quinquennial budgets proposals arranged in tabular form, which will be accompanied by graphs, annexes, explanatory notes and any other relevant documents.

Paragraph 2.03.3 – Case of non-adoption of the quinquennial budget

In case of non-adoption over the due period, i.e. the last day of the Review Conference, the prior quinquennial provisional budget is tacitly renewed on a temporary basis and will be regularized through approval of High Contracting Parties as soon as possible.

Paragraph 2.03.4 – Case of non-adoption of the annual budget

In case of non-adoption over the due period, i.e. the last day of the meetings of High Contracting Parties, the prior annual estimated budget is tacitly renewed on a temporary basis and will be regularized through approval of High Contracting Parties as soon as possible.

IV. Part III: Assessed contributions

Paragraph 3.01 – Assessed contributions

High Contracting Parties are obliged to bear the costs of all meetings and of the ISU of the instrument they are party to, which they are expected to participate in. On a yearly basis, each High Contracting Party has to pay a share of the approved budget for that year. This initial assessment of contribution is calculated based on the United Nations scale of assessment applicable for the Convention and its Protocols pro-rated to take into account differences in membership between the Convention and the United Nations, assuming that no other State will attend the meeting.

States other than High Contracting Parties who attend meetings are obliged to pay a contribution in respect of the meeting(s) attended. They will share in the costs to the extent of their respective rates of assessment under the United Nations scale of assessment in respect of the meeting(s) attended. They will be invoiced for contributions retrospectively, at the time of the closing of the accounts.

The assessment of contributions towards the cost of preparing and holding meetings will be calculated on the basis of the United Nations scale of assessment, adjusted to take into account the difference between the United Nations membership on the one hand and the number of States other than High Contracting Parties in attendance combined with the number of High Contracting Parties on the other.

Paragraph 3.02 – Billings**Paragraph 3.02.1 – Quinquennial provisional budget invoices issuance**

On each Review Conference, the quinquennial provisional budget will be adopted. For subsequent years, invoices corresponding to the annual shares of the five-year budget will be sent, at the time of the closing of the accounts. This invoice must include an expected due date, which is February 1st of the year to which this invoice relates.

If the United Nations scale of assessments is revised subsequent to the issuance of the quinquennial provisional budget invoice, the corresponding adjustments will be made in an annual budget invoices issuance.

Paragraph 3.02.2 – Annual adopted budget invoices issuance

If the annual adopted budget is less than the yearly share of the quinquennial provisional budget invoiced, no amending invoice will be issued. The difference will accrue as a credit for High Contracting Parties.

In case of the annual adopted budget exceeds the amount of the yearly share of the quinquennial budget invoiced, ISU will send a second set of invoices to the High Contracting Parties, corresponding to the difference due for the current year. In this case, no later than 60 working days after the adoption of the annual budget, the ISU will send to the High Contracting Parties their respective invoices corresponding to the difference due for the year in question.

Paragraph 3.02.3 – Invoice's content

Invoices will reflect the full amount due based on the adopted budget as well as amounts due for prior years, if any. Invoices will include:

- the amount of assessed contributions due by the High Contracting Parties based on the yearly version of the quinquennial budget;
- the funded liabilities due to the High Contracting Parties which paid their assessed contribution calculated at the closing of the accounts or the assessed contributions in arrears due by the High Contracting parties or the amounts due by the State not yet Party;
- amounts due by the High Contracting Parties or State not yet party for prior years if any or any credits due to the High Contracting Parties or State not yet party for prior years (overpayments) if any so that Parties have the option of deducting such amounts prior to submitting payment.

High Contracting Parties and States not parties participating in the meetings of the Convention and its annexed Protocols acknowledge that the United Nations will endeavour to streamline the process of issuing invoices and that funds must be available 90 days before any proposed meeting and in this regard, stress their resolve to proceed with the payment of their share of the estimated costs as soon as the assessment invoices have been received from the United Nations.

Paragraph 3.03 – Avoiding unfunded liabilities

In order to stop accumulating unfunded liabilities, annual expenditures will be restricted to the average year-end collection rate of the prior three years, applied to the current year's budget, unless the actual cash collected for the year in question is higher.

Paragraph 3.04 – Closing of the accounts

After the end of each funding year, High Contracting Parties will request the United Nations to close the accounts as soon as all expenditures have been recorded and obligations closed, no later than September 1st following the year when these accounts were used:

- the part of the credit available in the cash balance of the closed account will be returned to each High Contracting Party that paid its assessed contribution prior to the end of the financial period and reflected in the next annual invoice.
- the part of the credit not available in the cash balance of the closed accounts, due to outstanding assessed contributions, will be noted. If these outstanding contributions are funded, they will be returned to High Contracting Parties, this settlement occurring every 5 years, i.e. at the end of each budgetary cycle. High Contracting Parties will receive their credits back respectively to the year of their paid assessed contributions.
- in the event of a change in the UN scale of assessment rates, the credit calculation is based on the UN assessment rates used at the time of the issuing of the preliminary assessment.

No High Contracting Party can claim any credits back before the closure of the financial accounts of the year in question.

Following the adoption of these Consolidated Financial Measures, accounts that remained open since the last closure will be closed. This closure will take place as soon as all expenditures have been recorded and obligations closed, no later than September 1st, following the funding year when these Consolidated Financial Measures are adopted.

Paragraph 3.05 – Arrears

Paragraph 3.05.1 – Time limit for placement in arrears

Any High Contracting Party or non-High Contracting Party to the Convention that fails to pay its assessed contributions before the end of the funding year, i.e. December 31st, will be considered in arrears for the year in question.

Paragraph 3.05.2 – Responsibility in case of arrears

High Contracting Parties and States not parties participating in the meetings of the Convention and its annexed Protocols declare their determination to ensure full compliance with all financial obligations under the Convention and its annexed Protocols.

High Contracting Parties in arrears will endeavor to pay outstanding amounts at the earliest possible date.

Arrears for unpaid contributions will remain the amount of the initial assessment invoiced to the relevant High Contracting Parties for the year in question. High Contracting Parties will receive their credits back respectively to the year of their paid assessed contributions.

Paragraph 3.05.3 – Measures

Any High Contracting Party that finds itself unable to pay its contribution and whose arrears equal or exceed the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years is encouraged to seek the support of the ISU in identifying a solution, and to inform the Chairperson and the High Contracting Parties accordingly.

The monthly reports produced by United Nations Office at Geneva on the status of payments to the Convention will be published on the Convention's website and the Chairperson and ISU will draw attention to them during organisational meetings. On the Convention's website, a special page will be devoted to mentioning the High Contracting Parties in arrears and the amount of arrears due respectively.

V. Part IV: Measures to ensure the operational continuity of the CCW in the event that contributions fall short of the of the operational budget

Paragraph 4.01 – Procedure in case of the viability of the Conventions is threatened

Will the expenditure in any financial period look likely to exceed the average year-end collection rate of the prior five years or the actual cash on hand (whichever is higher), following consultations with, and with the approval of High Contracting Parties, the Chairperson will consider measures to reduce costs before committing to the overspread. Such additional spending would also be subject to the availability of sufficient cash on hand. Such a decision is to be taken at least three months prior to the meeting, without prejudice to the Rules of Procedure.

If the Chairperson of the meeting of High Contracting Parties at which the budgets are to be adopted deems a decision to be taken by the meeting would have significant financial implications, the Chairperson will request that a report be prepared by the Secretariat and submitted to the meeting in a timely manner prior to the taking of any decision.

Paragraph 4.02 – Exceptional cuts on services

Funds equaling the operational budget of a meeting need to be held on account at least 90 days in advance of the planned date of that meeting if the meeting is to take place on the planned date according to the operational budget agreed.

If funds equaling the operational budget of a meeting are not held on account at least 90 days in advance of the planned date of that meeting, measures to reduce the cost of the meeting below the agreed operational budget, such as reducing the time allocated for meetings or holding informal sessions, may be considered by the Chairperson, following consultations with, and with the approval of High Contracting Parties, without prejudice to the Rules of Procedure and on an exceptional basis to avoid postponement or cancellation.

Paragraph 4.03 – Contingency provision

A 5% contingency line is included in the cost estimates of the quinquennial provisional budget in order to help ensure greater financial predictability and liquidity for the planning and holding of meetings.

The contingency provision would be used to cover actual costs which are over and above the estimated cost of the meeting, or to cover additional unplanned expenditure authorized following approval by the High Contracting Parties (during a High Contracting Parties' meeting or through a silent procedure).

Article 4.04 - Use of cash from prior year for liquidity purposes

Unused funds residing on the CCW accounts at the end of the calendar year can be used to fund mandated activities of CCW that are taking place by 31 July of the following calendar year when there is a reasonable assurance that funds will be paid by the High Contracting Parties to cover those expenses before the previous year financial accounts are closed and remaining funds returned to the High Contracting Parties, if requested by them;

Paragraph 4.05 – Working Capital Fund

The Working Capital Fund provides liquidity during the financial year with a view to ensuring the stability of ISU support to the Convention. The Working Capital Fund will operate in accordance with the Terms of Reference stipulated below:

- (a) Contributions to the Working Capital Fund (WCF) are strictly voluntary;
- (b) Only CCW High Contracting Parties may contribute funds to the WCF;
- (c) Voluntary contributions to the WCF will be accepted in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;
- (d) The voluntary contributions to WCF are irrevocable, i.e. they cannot be withdrawn by the donor till such time that the WCF is abolished;
- (e) Any interest on funds held in the WCF will accrue to the WCF and be transferred to the donors when the WCF is abolished;
- (f) The minimum target of WCF, for planning purposes, is 100% of one year's estimate for ISU staff costs;
- (g) The WCF cannot be used to cover arrears of assessed contributions in any circumstance;
- (h) The purpose of the WCF is to provide liquidity to the CCW over the course of the calendar year. The WCF is to be used solely as a source of short-term financing pending receipt of reasonably anticipated contributions;
- (i) Funds may only be withdrawn from the WCF to provide short-term liquidity to finance the contracts of the staff of the CCW Implementation Support Unit (ISU). Withdrawals from the WCF in a calendar year may not exceed the amount of reasonably anticipated contributions in a calendar year, defined by applying the average year-end collection rate over the preceding three years;

(j) Withdrawals from the WCF will be immediately replenished by deposits from assessed contributions as soon as the assessed contributions are received;

(k) The UN Secretariat will administer the WCF according to these Terms of Reference and shall provide a financial report on the use of funds prior to each meeting of High Contracting Parties;

(l) If and when the High Contracting Parties will decide to dismantle the WCF, funds will be returned to the respective contributing High Contracting Parties, along with the interest accrued, or used otherwise in accordance with their instructions.

VI. Part V: Audit & Transparency

Paragraph 5.01 – Ensuring transparency

The monthly reports produced by United Nations Office at Geneva on the status of payments to the Convention will be published on the Convention's website and the Chairperson will draw attention to them during organisational meetings.

The agendas of all Meetings of High Contracting Parties will include an item on the financial status of the Convention at which the status of contributions and financial outlook will be presented.

Paragraph 5.02 - Audit

The United Nations manages CCW funds through an account which is currently subject to annual external audit by the UN Board of Auditors (BoA). Will these annual audits result in the publication of findings or recommendations applicable to the CCW, such information will be included in the regular information provided by ODA to the High Contracting Parties.

The UN activities, including those of UNODA, are also subject to independent internal audit by the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), in accordance with Paragraph V (e) of the UN Financial Regulations and Rules. High Contracting Parties will call UNODA to propose to the UN Office of International Oversight (OIOS) an audit of the CCW no later than 5 years following the introduction of the CCW Financial Rules, and then, on a five-year basis, on the Review Conference years.

The decision to perform such audits remains under the authority of OIOS, in accordance with their mandate and operational independence. Internal audit reports issued by OIOS are available to High Contracting Parties either on request or through the OIOS website.

Appendix

2009 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW/MSP/2009/5)

The CCW ISU will operate in the most efficient way and will perform the following tasks:

- (a) Provide administrative support to and prepare documentation for meetings agreed by the meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW, Amended Protocol II and Protocol V;
- (b) Facilitate communications among High Contracting Parties and, upon request, with international organizations;
- (c) Serve as a focal point for submission of information by and to the High Contracting Parties related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols; develop and maintain the CCW website and the CCW databases as directed by the annual Meetings of the High Contracting Parties;
- (d) Support the High Contracting Parties, on request, in the implementation of the CCW and its Protocols and assist the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the discharge of his/her responsibilities pursuant to Article 11 (2) of Protocol V, Article 14 (4) of Amended Protocol II and the CCW Compliance mechanism;
- (e) Contribute to the promotion of the universalization of the CCW and its annexed Protocols and support the High Contracting Parties in the implementation of the CCW Plan of Action for the Universalization of the CCW and its Protocols and the CCW Sponsorship Programme;
- (f) Perform any other duty as mandated by the High Contracting Parties of the CCW or its Protocols.

Annex IV

List of Documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
CCW/CONF.VI/1	Provisional agenda
CCW/CONF.VI/2	Provisional programme of work of the Sixth Review Conference
CCW/CONF.VI/3	Report of the Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Sponsorship Programme – Submitted by the Secretariat
CCW/CONF.VI/4	Promoting Universality of the Convention and its Protocols. Submitted by the Implementation Support Unit
CCW/CONF.VI/5	Report of the Implementation Support Unit. Submitted by the Implementation Support Unit
CCW/CONF.VI/6	Status of Financial Contributions. Submitted by the Implementation Support Unit
CCW/CONF.VI/7	Estimated Costs 2022 Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)
CCW/CONF.VI/8	Estimated Costs 2022 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention
CCW/CONF.VI/9	2023-2025 budget
CCW/CONF.VI/10	2026 budget
CCW/CONF.VI/11	Final Document of the Sixth Review Conference
CCW/CONF.VI/SR.10	Plenary: Friday 17 December 2021 p.m. (public)
CCW/CONF.VI/CC/1	Report of the Credentials Committee. Submitted by the Chair of the Credentials Committee
CCW/CONF.VI/MC.I/1	Provisional agenda Main Committee I of the Sixth Review Conference. Submitted by the President-Designate of the Sixth Review Conference
CCW/CONF.VI/MC.I/2	Provisional programme of work Main Committee I of the Sixth Review Conference. Submitted by the President-Designate of the Sixth Review Conference
CCW/CONF.VI/MC.I/3	Report of Main Committee I. Submitted by the Chairperson of Main Committee I
CCW/CONF.VI/MC.I/L.1	Draft Final Declaration
CCW/CONF.VI/MC.I/L.2	Draft Final Declaration
CCW/CONF.VI/MC.I/L.3	Draft Final Declaration

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
CCW/CONF.VI/MC.II/1	Provisional agenda Main Committee II of the Sixth Review Conference. Submitted by the President-designate of the Sixth Review Conference
CCW/CONF.VI/MC.II/2	Provisional programme of work Main Committee II of the Sixth Review Conference. Submitted by the President-designate of the Sixth Review Conference
CCW/CONF.VI/MC.II/3	Report of Main Committee II. Submitted by the Chairperson of Main Committee II
CCW/CONF.VI/INF.1 English/French and Spanish only	List of Participants
CCW/CONF.VI/WP.1 English only	Views and Recommendations for the Sixth Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross
CCW/CONF.VI/WP.2 English only	Position Paper of the People's Republic of China on Regulating Military Applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Submitted by China
CCW/CONF.VI/WP.3 English only	Translating Ethical Concerns into a Normative and Operational Framework for Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems. Submitted by the Holy See
CCW/CONF.VI/WP.4 English only	The decision of the Russian Federation to withdraw from the Eastern European Group of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW). Submitted by the Russian Federation
