



Geneva, 24 December 2017

CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW)

CCW key milestones in 2018

Excellency,

1. As the Chairperson-elect of the 2018 Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), the President-designate of the Twentieth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, the President-designate of the Twelfth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V and the Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts on lethal autonomous weapons systems (GGE on LAWS), we are writing to inform you of some of the key milestones in preparation for next year's activities under the CCW. These milestones have been prepared keeping in mind the priorities expressed by the High Contracting Parties, the crowded calendar for 2018 (meetings on the Arms Trade Treaty, Small Arms and Light Weapons, Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the new Groups of Governmental Experts etc.) as well as challenges related to conference room availability in UNOG during the second half of the year.

2. The milestone dates are the following:

- 1 February 2018: Report from UNODA on the finances of the CCW.
- 9 February 2018: Deadline for the submission of working papers for the first week of the GGE on LAWS.
- 19 to 23 February 2018 – First week of the GGE on LAWS.
- 24 March 2018: Deadline for the submission of working papers for the second week of the GGE on LAWS.
- 31 March 2018 – deadline for submitting national annual reports on CCW Compliance, Amended Protocol II and Protocol V.
- 9 to 13 April 2018 – Second week of the GGE on LAWS.
- 11 to 12 June 2018 – Group of Experts on Amended Protocol II.
- 12 to 13 June 2018 – Meeting of Experts on Protocol V.
- 14 June 2018 – Informal open-ended consultations on how best to address the continuing differences of views on “Mines Other than Anti-Personnel Mines”.
- Taking advantage also of the presence of capital based experts, the Chairperson-elect of the CCW intends to hold during the same week informal open-ended consultations on administrative issues relevant to the CCW, including the first experience of applying the new Financial Measures and the situation around the ISU.
- 20 August 2018 – Report from UNODA on the finances of the CCW.
- 10 September 2018 – Official documentation for the conferences in November to be submitted.

- 24 September 2018 – Working papers on the agenda item for the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on “Emerging Issues in the context of the objectives and purposes of the Convention”.
- 19 November 2018 - Twelfth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V.
- 20 November 2018 - Twentieth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II.
- 21 to 23 November 2018 – Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention.

3. In the annex of this letter you will find a Note on the Organization of Work prepared by the Chair of the GGE on LAWS. The Chair intends to hold informal consultations with the Regional Groups in early 2018.

4. Notes on the Scope and Organization of Work of the expert meetings in the framework of the Amended Protocol II and Protocol V prepared by the respective President-designates will be circulated by February 2018.

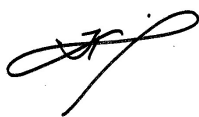
5. We would like to encourage all High Contracting Parties to expedite the settlement of their annual contributions to the CCW budget in order to allow all scheduled activities to be conducted on time and in the best possible conditions.

6. The High Contracting Parties may wish to note that the preliminary billing for 2018 has been posted on the CCW website.

7. We wish to encourage all High Contracting Parties and observer States, in a position to do so, to consider contributing to the Sponsorship Programme. The Sponsorship Programme is critical to our collective efforts to promote universalization and ensure a range of experts and regional perspectives are represented at all CCW meetings.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Chairperson of the
2018 Meeting of the
High Contracting
Parties to the
Convention



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Note on the Organization of Work of the 2018 Meetings of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) in the context of the objectives and purposes of the CCW

Prepared by the Chairperson of the GGE on LAWS

The report of the 2017 meeting of the GGE on LAWS adopted by the High Contracting Parties at the 2017 annual meeting of the Convention, in particular the section on conclusions and recommendations, provides guidance for the work of the GGE in 2018 in accordance with its mandate.

Accordingly, it is proposed that the ten days of work allotted to the GGE in 2018 be utilized in the following manner:

Week 1

“Characterization of the systems under consideration in order to promote a common understanding on concepts and characteristics relevant to the objectives and purposes of the CCW”: 1.5 days

“Further consideration of the human element in the use of lethal force; aspects of human-machine interaction in the development, deployment and use of emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems”: 1.5 days

“Review of potential military applications of related technologies in the context of the Group’s work”: 1/2 day, including a panel of experts.

“Possible options for addressing the humanitarian and international security challenges posed by emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems in the context of the objectives and purposes of the Convention without prejudging policy outcomes and taking into account past, present and future proposals”: 1 day

Note: Half a day would be reserved for general statements.

Week 2

Characterization item as above: 1 day

Human-machine interaction item as above: 1 day

Technology review item as above: 1/2 day, including a panel of experts.

Challenges and possible options item as above, including future work: 1.5 days

Note: One day would be reserved for work on the report of the GGE; HCPs are encouraged to avoid general statements in the second week.