General Statement on behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Latvia
CCW 2019 MHCP

Mr President,

At the outset, let me congratulate you Ambassador on your nomination as President of this 2019 meeting of HCP and assure you of the full support of the Latvian delegation.

Latvia aligns with the statement by the European Union. I would like to make few remarks in a national capacity.

Mr President,

Latvia remains firmly committed to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Protocols. As a President of the 2018 of the MHCP, Latvia contributed to the strengthening of the functioning of the Convention, with particular focus to financial measures and status of ISU. At the 74 session of the UNGA, Latvia introduced the resolution on CCW which was adopted by consensus. I would like to use this opportunity to thank all HCP and other UN MS for their constructive engagement and flexibility.

Latvia supports efforts aimed at the universalization of the CCW and the annexed Protocols. We welcome Benin as a HCP of Protocol V and Amended Protocol II.

Mr President,

We regard CCW as an important forum to increase awareness of the existing challenges and to address emerging issues. Among other issues, we follow with great interest the work undertaken on the issue of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems. We are encouraged by the progress so far and offer our services to coordinate work of the GGE for the year 2020. We hope that the 2021 Review conference will be able to adopt substantive outcome of the work of the GGE.

Mr President,

Latvia attaches great importance to building and sustaining confidence in compliance. Since joining the CCW Latvia hasn’t failed in national reporting obligations a single time. We encourage all High Contracting Parties to submit the annual reports on compliance with the provisions of the Convention and its Protocols, thereby developing mutual trust and creating transparency.

Mr President,

Let me conclude, Mr President, by expression of serious concerns about the high level of outstanding national assessed contributions to the CCW. The effectiveness of the Treaty depends on the availability of resources to carry out its mandated activities. Non-payment of assessed contributions or their delayed payment seriously hamper normal functioning of not only the secretariat’s work but also the Treaty as a whole. Such a situation is not acceptable. Latvia calls on all member states to fulfil their obligations
towards all conventional arms treaties and pay assessed contributions in time and in full. Latvia support fully your proposal, Mr President, to strengthen further financial situation of the CCW, including establishment of the Working Capital Fund.

I thank you, Mr. President.