
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

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Consideration of the report of the CCW Sponsorship Programme

Report of the CCW Sponsorship Programme

Submitted by the Steering Committee of the Sponsorship Programme

A. Introduction

1. The CCW Sponsorship Programme was established by a decision of the High Contracting Parties at the Third Review Conference.¹ The goals of the Sponsorship Programme are to strengthen the implementation of and respect for the Convention and its Protocols, and to promote its universalization. The Programme also aims to enhance cooperation, exchange of information and consultations among the High Contracting Parties.

2. In the final report of the 2017 Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention, the Meeting “expressed its appreciation for the report of the CCW Sponsorship Programme and the work of its Steering Committee”.² The Meeting recognized the value and importance of the Sponsorship Programme for promoting universalization and strengthening the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. The Meeting called upon those States in a position to do so to contribute to the Sponsorship Programme.

3. This report covers the work of the Sponsorship Programme from 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2018. Ms. Riia Salsa from Estonia served as Coordinator of the Steering Committee until August 2018. Ms. Ines Šprem Scigliano from Croatia has since taken over the role of Coordinator of the Steering Committee. The programme is supported by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and all logistical and administrative issues are managed by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).

B. Activities of the CCW Sponsorship Programme

4. Since 1 October 2017, the Sponsorship Programme financed the attendance of one representative of the following States:

¹ Decision 5 of the final document, CCW/CONF.III/11 and Annex IV, 7–17 November 2006.

² Paragraph 30 of the final document, CCW/MSP/2017/8, 11 December 2017.

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(a) to attend the 2017 session of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (13–17 November 2017): Togo, Jordan and Uganda;

(b) to attend the Eleventh Conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V (20 November 2017): Belarus, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ghana, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Paraguay and Zambia;

(c) to attend the Nineteenth Conference of High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II (21 November 2017): Belarus, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ghana, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Paraguay and Zambia;

(d) to attend the 2017 Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention (22–24 November 2017): Belarus, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ghana, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Paraguay and Zambia;

(e) to attend the first session in 2018 of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (9–13 April 2018): Djibouti and Honduras;

(f) to attend the Amended Protocol II Group of Experts (11–12 (am) June 2018) and the Protocol V Meeting of Experts (12 (pm)–13 June 2018): Colombia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Philippines; and

(g) to attend the second session in 2018 of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (28–31 August 2018): Jordan, Mexico and Sri Lanka.

5. Since 1 October 2017, the Sponsorship Programme financed the attendance of the following experts, upon recommendation by the respective officeholders:

(a) to participate in the panel discussions held during the 2017 session of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (13–17 November 2017): five experts from Canada, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) to participate in the panel discussion, held under agenda item 6 (c) Review of potential military applications of related technologies in the context of the Group's work, during the first session in 2018 of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (9–13 April 2018): four experts from Hong Kong, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and the Russian Federation;

(c) to attend the Amended Protocol II Group of Experts (11–12 (am) June 2018): three experts from Afghanistan, Colombia and El Salvador;

(d) to attend the Protocol V Meeting of Experts (12 (pm)–13 June 2018): two experts from Afghanistan and Lao People's Democratic Republic; and

(e) to participate in the panel discussion, held under agenda item 6 (c) Review of potential military applications of related technologies in the context of the Group's work, during the second session in 2018 of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (28–31 August 2018): three experts from India, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

6. The attendance of sponsored representatives of States at the meetings mentioned above was a good opportunity to brief and discuss with them the background to, reasons for joining the CCW and its Protocols, and issues concerning implementation. During these

meetings, the Sponsorship Programme Coordinator and the UNODA Geneva Branch organized breakfast or lunchtime briefings, at which sponsored delegates were requested to share information on the prospects of their State joining the CCW or to highlight any challenges concerning implementation.

C. Work of the Steering Committee

7. The Steering Committee of the Sponsorship Programme met twice in 2018.³ The Committee continuously reviewed the financial situation of the Sponsorship Programme. The Committee also discussed a proposal made by the UNODA Geneva Branch to move to a yearly planning cycle and selection of sponsored States in light of optimizing the use of available resources as well as increasing the impact of the Sponsorship Programme. Following this discussion, the Committee agreed on launching two calls for voluntary applications for sponsorship, one for the first session of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems in April 2018 and one for the remaining CCW meetings in 2018. The Committee continued discussion on which States should be prioritized to receive sponsorship at future CCW conferences. The Coordinators continued their fundraising activities by approaching States Parties individually.

D. Financing of the CCW Sponsorship Programme

8. During the reporting period, the Sponsorship Programme benefitted from the financial contributions of the following States: Australia, China, Croatia and Estonia. The financial accounts for the Sponsorship Programme as of 1 October 2018 are attached to this report as an annex.

³ The meetings of the Steering Committee were held in Geneva on 23 February and 19 April 2018.

Annex

Accounts as of 1 October 2018 (CHF)

2018	<i>Expenditures</i>				<i>Carry-over</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Remaining balance</i>
	<i>April</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Total</i>			
Travel costs	5 488	8 252	727	14 467			
Accommodation	3 759	4 950	4 081	12 790			
Per diem	1 540	1 760	1 320	4 620			
Bank charges	46	30	20	96			
Contributions							
Australia						16 996	
China						9 716	
Croatia						1 000	
Estonia						5 708	
Total	10 833	14 992	6 148	31 973	88 467	33 420	
Remaining balance 2018							89 914