



PHILIPPINES

**National Statement
Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain
Conventional Weapons (CCW)
Geneva, Switzerland
21-23 November 2018**

**Delivered by
Mr. Enrik Fort E. Revillas,
Third Secretary
Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations
and Other International Organizations in Geneva**

Mr. Chair,

Our delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the NAM.

In our national capacity, we take this opportunity to emphasize the Philippines' unwavering commitment to the global disarmament agenda, of which the universalization and implementation of the CCW and its Protocols plays an important part. We are pleased to report our continued endeavors to fully participate in all relevant multilateral disarmament instruments, a major accomplishment of which has been our ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) this year. We continue to work towards accession to Protocol V, while also ensuring that the other instruments to which we are Party are operationalized on the ground by our armed forces and police. As we have vigorously sought to modernize and upgrade our national defense and law enforcement capabilities, so too have we exerted utmost effort to meet our disarmament and humanitarian obligations. This is notwithstanding the fact that the armed non-state actors (NSAs) that our security forces have faced

increasingly resort to using the very weapons that we have sought to outlaw or regulate.

Mr. Chair,

We recognize the fast-evolving landscape of modern armed conflict - advances in science and technology combined with the increasing asymmetry and urbanization of warfare have been game changers, so to speak, thus presenting new challenges to governing international mechanisms and instruments. We believe that in this context, the CCW remains a relevant and viable framework through which the international community can move forward and ensure that normative systems are able to keep pace with such rapid global developments.

We therefore welcome and express our continued support for the work being done in the CCW to address emerging issues and challenges, including among others, on improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and mines other than anti-personnel mines (MOTAPM), on lethal autonomous weapons (LAWS) and on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA).

Our delegation expresses full support for outcomes that will take these discussions forward into 2019. We attach particular importance to the aspect of weapons use of NSAs, and hope that the issue will continue to be considered and explored in future substantive discussions.

Mr. Chair,

We also wish to express our concern that while the challenges that the CCW's mandate seek to address grow more complex, universalization and implementation activities are hamstrung by the Convention's dire financial situation. We wish to manifest our appreciation that despite these difficult

conditions, cooperation and assistance initiatives such as the Sponsorship Program have been successfully launched, and CCW meetings continue to benefit from excellent secretariat and support services. However, the long-term viability of the benefits we enjoy today rest upon the commitment of High Contracting Parties to fulfil their financial obligations under the Convention in a consistent and timely manner. We extend our gratitude to you, Mr. Chair, for the work you have done in facilitating discussions on pragmatic solutions to this crisis and assure you of our support in this regard.

I thank you Mr. Chair and reiterate our commitment to working with you in achieving a successful outcome to this Meeting.