



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

**MEETING OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES 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**

Geneva, 21.-23. November 2018

Statement by Germany – General Exchange of Views

Mister Chair,

Thank you for giving me the floor. I would like to start by congratulating you on your appointment to chair this important conference. Let me assure you of the full cooperation of Germany in the successful conclusion of this meeting.

We align ourselves with the statement of the European Union.

In my national capacity please allow me to highlight some key issues. The complete statement will be made available on the CCW website. We will be taking the floor with thematic interventions later during this conference.

The CCW remains highly relevant for us as an important forum to discuss the consequences of the use of certain conventional weapons including the effects of technological developments and humanitarian implications. The possibility to address new challenges to IHL has proven highly valuable.

That is the reason why Germany is a strong proponent of the universalization of the convention.

We are concerned about reports of the use of incendiary weapons in recent conflicts and call upon all states to accede to Protocol III of the CCW. We welcome the inclusion of Protocol III in this year's agenda.

The CCW's work on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) has been extremely useful over the past years. We thank Ambassador Amandeep Gill for taking on the task of chairing the Group of Governmental experts for an additional period. We strongly recommend extending the GGE into next year with two sessions of one week each in 2019, as this rhythm has proven to be productive this year, sufficient time will be needed in order to make progress towards defining recommendations for policy options. As we have explained in our submissions to the GGE this year, we suggest taking the GGE forward with a political declaration, transparency measures, the creation of a CCW expert group on LAWS, and a code of conduct as a second step. We strongly believe that we need to see tangible progress in working towards a joint outcome-document of the GGE-process such as a political declaration in 2019.

The GGE's agenda should provide dedicated room for the High Contracting Parties to present their preferred options for addressing the humanitarian and international security challenges posed by emerging technologies in the area of LAWS as stipulated by the mandate.

Germany stands ready to give its full support to this process.

At the 3rd Review Conference in 2016 Germany suggested to include an item on the use of Explosive Weapons with wide area effects in urban areas the agenda of this

meeting. This is an urgent matter that should be discussed within in the CCW context with a view to improving compliance with International Humanitarian Law. We don't need new norms, but we do need a discussion on how we, as High Contracting Parties, operationalize IHL in order to minimize civilian harm. It was in this vein that Germany organized the so-called „EWIPA-Talks” also in 2018. We are grateful for the assistance extended by the ICRC and the GICHD.

Based on these discussions we drew up a working paper that has been submitted to this conference. We are happy to share some initial results under the Item “Emerging issues of relevance to the Convention”. We will have a statement with some further detail then.

On the issue of Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines we would encourage further exchange between High Contracting Parties. Consultations in June 2018 underscored the further need for exchange between experts. The discussion on different views on military utility and the protection of civilians were very useful and should be explored further. Two aspects could make a real difference. Those are detectability and lifespan limitations.

On Improvised Explosive Devices (IED): We believe the exchange of information and best practice could still be strengthened and synergies between different international fora should be explored. We support the mandate suggested by the Coordinators France and Colombia. The addition of the dimension of risk education is indeed very important.

In light of recent financial problems the Review Conference mandated the Chair to suggest specific actions that would help remedy the difficulties and would help to avoid a recurrence in the future. The inclusion of an item dedicated to the financial

situation of the convention was an important step. We also would like to commend your ongoing work to further strengthen the financial situation by you Mr. Chair.

We call on all high contracting parties to pay their contributions in full and on time. We need to avoid by all means that meetings had to be cancelled for lack of funding. Some additional matters have already been taken and we are looking forward to examining the ISU arrangement and a possible voluntary liquidity mechanism latter during the conference. We see the CCW as a highly relevant forum for addressing conventional arms and ammunition control issues. We look forward to working with all high contracting parties in addressing the pressing financial issues.

Thank you Mister Chair.