

# Twenty-seventh Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II 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

20 November 2025

English only

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Geneva, 11 November 2025

Item 7 of the Provisional agenda

General exchanges of views

## Working paper

### Submitted by Australia \*

1. The troubling global security environment gives us good cause to reaffirm our collective commitment to Amended Protocol II (APII). Weapons such as mines and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) pose a threat to civilians and hinder humanitarian access long after hostilities cease.
2. Disarmament treaties, conventions, and protocols, including this Protocol are not just commitments applicable to peacetime. They must be equally observed during hostilities. Australia calls on all High Contracting Parties to uphold their obligations.
3. Australia is committed to playing its part to universalise and strengthen implementation of APII. Australia acknowledges the complementarity between APII and other conventions such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Australia highlights the importance of APII as the only instrument specifically regulating the use of IEDs. Australia also recognises that APII contains provisions on facilitating the removal of mines, booby-traps and other devices after conflict has ceased.
4. Australia understands that the wide-ranging negative impact of IEDs must be met with diverse initiatives and efforts at the national, regional and global levels – through disarmament and arms control, counter-terrorism, protection of civilians, humanitarian mine action and trade controls.
5. For this reason, Australia continues its commitment to lead the UN General Assembly Resolution on “Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices” alongside France and Nigeria. This resolution, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, reflects Australia’s commitment to championing the principles underpinning APII, and to keeping the issue of IEDs on the international agenda.
6. One of the tangible outcomes of that resolution is the Secretary General’s report on ‘Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices’ released in 2024. At the CCW meeting of experts for Protocol II in September, Australia’s presentation highlighted the significant trends, efforts and developments related to countering the threat posed by IEDs. The report contained the disturbing fact that nearly half of all explosive ordnance casualties in 2023 were caused by IEDs, and of those, 68 percent were civilians.
7. Looking ahead, Australia welcomes innovative developments underway that employ autonomous technologies to assist with clearance, including remote detection, ground penetrating radar, and detection algorithms, all of which can reduce risk to clearance operators and civilians.

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

8. Australia would like to pay tribute to the courage of clearance operators in their difficult and dangerous work. Australia is committed to working with them and partners to meet the challenge posed by mines and IEDs.

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