

# 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

18 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 the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland \*

1. The United Kingdom calls for all States to ratify and implement the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, which remains the high standard. However, Amended Protocol II remains important both as a baseline setting limits and expectations, and in setting guidelines. It sits alongside the Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions as a crucial part of the humanitarian disarmament architecture, with perhaps even more relevance than a year ago, as more States are set to be bound by its provisions and its provisions only. As such, it is regretful that once again a meeting or any substantive discussions on the implementation of APII could not be held. This must be resolved at the Review Conference in 2026.

2. The reason why this situation exists cannot be ignored. Some States have chosen to leave the Mine Ban Convention owing to security concerns, as a result of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. While saddened by their decisions, the United Kingdom has welcomed statements made by those States on their continued commitment to International Humanitarian Law, including APII, and support for the norms promoted by the Mine Ban Convention. By contrast, one State has significant questions to answer about its own compliance with APII, with reports of landmines being dropped from drones to directly attack civilians and contaminate civilian areas in Ukraine, a contemptible and unjustifiable evolution of its desperate tactics.

3. The United Kingdom wishes to thank the IED coordinators for their work this year. Improvised Explosive Devices continue to be one of the greatest risks to civilians around the world. Action on Armed Violence recorded over ten thousand incidents of IED use between 2015-2024 across 94 countries – including in the UK – resulting in 83,529 civilian casualties with 52% of such incidents occurring within a populated area. Increasingly, States are also using IEDs in civilian areas to kill, maim and spread terror. High Contracting Parties to APII must abide by their obligations and all States must abide by International Humanitarian Law in their conduct.

4. The United Kingdom looks forward to participating in UNIDIR's conference on improvised weapons production in December. As reflected in the scope of that conference, threats from IEDs and improvisation in the use of other weapons, including small arms and drones, cannot be addressed in isolation. This is why our work is complemented by other treaties, including the Programme of Action and the Global Framework.

5. The United Kingdom appreciates the intended focus on Article 11 this year given the continued and growing need for assistance across many regions. The UK continues to support

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

efforts to reduce the risks from landmines and other explosive ordnance and our Global Mine Action Programme is providing over £27M of funding this financial year on interventions in 12 countries. This includes £4m announced by the UK Foreign Secretary on 30 October to support the work of UNMAS in Gaza.

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