

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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Item 10 of the provisional agenda

Issues related to the Implementation Support Unit

Report of the Implementation Support Unit

Submitted by the Implementation Support Unit*

I. Introduction

1. The Implementation Support Unit (ISU) was established by the 2009 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).¹ The Unit is housed in the Geneva Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), which supports the ISU through a range of services that include financial, logistical, administrative and personnel management oversight to ensure compliance with the United Nations rules and regulations. The Branch also coordinates and liaises with the United Nations Office at Geneva's (UNOG) relevant conference services to facilitate the efficient organization of CCW meetings and conferences.

2. The ISU is funded by the annual assessed contributions of High Contracting Parties and supported by the voluntary Working Capital Fund (WCF). The WCF was established at the 2019 Meeting of High Contracting Parties to provide liquidity during the financial year with a view to ensuring the stability of ISU support to the Convention. The ISU is fully staffed (with one fixed-term P-3 and one fixed-term P-4 posts). For the ISU to remain fully staffed and functional and to maximize its efficiency and operations, sustainable, timely and predictable entry of funds is required.

3. The present report summarizes the activities of the CCW ISU from 16 September 2024 to 17 September 2025.

II. Support to officeholders and 2024 meetings and processes

4. During the reporting period, the ISU continued the substantive and logistical preparations for the 18th Annual Conference of Protocol V (11 November 2024), the 26th Annual Conference of Amended Protocol II (12 November 2024) and the 2024 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties (13-15 November 2024). During those meetings, the ISU advised the officeholders on substantive and procedural matters and supported them in the fulfilment of their duties; supported the officeholders in preparing the final documents of the two Annual Conferences and of the 2024 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties; supported and facilitated informal consultations, negotiations and bilateral meetings; and provided technical, logistical and administrative support to the three meetings. This included the registration of participants and preparation of the lists of participants; maintenance and updating of the websites of the meetings; circulating messages to High Contracting Parties

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.¹ Final report, CCW/MSP/2009/5, paragraphs 34 to 37.

regarding the organization of the meetings; the submission and circulation of official documents; liaising with delegations regarding their working paper submissions and responding to all queries related to the meetings; coordination of side events for all meetings and liaising accordingly with the UNOG Division of Conference Management (DCM); and liaising with UNOG Financial Resource Management Service (FRMS) regarding the invoices and other financial matters relating to assessed contributions, among others.

III. Support to officeholders and 2025 meetings and processes

5. In 2025, the ISU coordinated with regional groups in relation to nominations for vacant officeholder positions, briefed incoming officeholders on their responsibilities and supported them in carrying out their duties and functions.

6. In addition, the ISU assisted the officeholders in their outreach to High Contracting Parties on national annual reporting responsibilities and to non-High Contracting Parties on universalization, including by providing substantive background information and analysis, briefing on past efforts and preparing letters to Permanent Missions. The ISU continued to promote the universalization of the Convention and its Protocols through outreach to non-High Contracting Parties, often in collaboration with the CCW officeholders.

7. For the two 2025 sessions of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on emerging technologies in the area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), the ISU provided substantive and organizational support to the Chairperson, to the High Contracting Parties and to the Observers. As the substantive secretariat of the CCW, the Unit assisted the Chairperson in preparing documents, including the provisional agenda, programme of work, and supported the Chairperson in drafting background documents. During the official meetings of the Group, the Chairperson was provided with substantive and procedural guidance and was supported in fulfilling the Chairperson's duties, including through the organization of, and assistance to, numerous informal substantive consultations. At the request of the Chairperson, the ISU also provided substantive and logistical support for four intersessional informal consultations.

8. The ISU provided support for the preparation and organization of the Meeting of Experts of Protocol V (8 September 2025) and of the Group of Experts Meeting of Amended Protocol II (9-10 September 2025) by developing and circulating information materials, such as the indicative programme of work; recommending and liaising with panellists; and briefing the officeholders and coordinators on their responsibilities and past practice.

9. For the 2025 Meeting of High Contracting Parties (12-14 November), the 19th Conference of Protocol V (10 November) and the 27th Annual Conference of Amended Protocol II (11 November), the ISU prepared all pre-session documents, liaised with relevant UNOG entities for the organization of meetings and coordinated with regional groups for the nomination of officeholders.

10. Furthermore, the ISU assisted the Chairperson of the 2024 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties in the preparation of, and consultations on, the draft General Assembly First Committee resolution on the CCW.

11. During the reporting period, the ISU prepared universalization letters concerning Amended Protocol II and Protocol V, signed by the CCW officeholders, calling on States that have not yet done so to join the instruments. The letters not only highlighted the important role of the instruments in addressing the humanitarian impact of armed conflict, but also elaborated direct positive impact of accession on the realization of human rights and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, such as those aimed at protecting civilians, restoring access to schools, hospitals, markets and livelihoods, facilitating the return of displaced populations, rebuilding communities and supporting the realization of the right to development.

IV. National annual reports

12. According to the final report of the 2009 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW, the ISU is mandated to serve as focal point for submission of information by and to the High Contracting Parties related to the Convention and its Protocols and develop and maintain the CCW website and the CCW databases as directed by the annual Meetings of the High Contracting Parties (CCW/MSP/2009/5, paragraph 36 (c)).

13. Each year, the ISU receives the national annual reports submitted by High Contracting Parties pursuant to paragraph 5 of the decision on Compliance, as adopted by the Third Review Conference of the Convention, Article 13 (4) of Amended Protocol II and Article 10 (2) (b) of Protocol V. When permission is granted by the High Contracting Party, their national annual reports are made available online on the respective databases by the CCW ISU.²

14. The ISU sent letters to High Contracting Parties to remind them to submit their annual reports under the CCW Compliance Mechanism, as well as Amended Protocol II and Protocol V, where applicable.

15. The ISU stands ready to provide further support to High Contracting Parties in the upcoming reporting cycles. Furthermore, to bolster the goals of the CCW Compliance mechanism, the ISU stands ready to support, upon request, High Contracting Parties in the process of preparing annual reports by providing guidance, briefings and capacity-building trainings.

V. Sponsorship programme

16. The Unit took an active role in continuing the activities of the Sponsorship Programme. In late 2024, the Unit worked closely with the Steering Committee to designate a Coordinator and subsequently launched a call for applications for CCW meetings taking place in 2025 and supported the selection process. The Unit coordinated closely with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) to liaise with sponsored delegates. In line with the guidelines for the CCW Sponsorship Programme, the ISU also consulted donor representatives, officeholders, regional coordinators and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) regarding sponsorship recommendations. In addition, the Unit conducted targeted outreach to States not party to the CCW and to under-represented regions, resulting in a diverse pool of sponsorship candidates.

17. On the margins of the two 2025 sessions of the GGE on LAWS, the ISU organized dedicated briefings to sponsored delegates on 5 March 2025 and 2 September respectively. The Chair of the GGE on LAWS offered an overview of the current work of the Group to formulate a set of elements of an instrument to address emerging technologies in the area of LAWS. The briefings also provided an introduction to the CCW and its Protocols and facilitated discussions on universalization and implementation-related issues. The March briefing featured insights from Pakistan's national experience as a High Contracting Party to the CCW.

18. The ISU assisted the Steering Committee in preparing the report of the Sponsorship Programme, which is submitted to the Meeting of High Contracting Parties (CCW/MSP/2025/3).

19. The ISU assisted the Coordinator of the Steering Committee in drafting and circulating a letter to encourage High Contracting Parties to contribute to the Sponsorship Programme's fund.

² Detailed information on the status of reporting under the different instruments are contained in the following conference room papers: CCW/P.V/CONF/2025/CRP.2, CCW/AP.II/CONF.27/CRP.2, and CCW/MSP/2025/CRP.2.

VI. Finance

20. The ISU continuously monitors the financial situation of the Convention and the availability of funds for the mandated activities. The Unit coordinated with the finance unit of UNOG for the issuance and distribution of the 2026 invoices, the closing of accounts from previous year and the implementation of the consolidated financial measures adopted by the Sixth Review Conference, in particular the five-year budget. The Unit also engaged in efforts to secure funds for 2025 activities in a timely manner, such as official and informal outreach to High Contracting Parties with arrears and regularly sharing with High Contracting Parties the status of contributions.

21. The Sixth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW requested the ISU to continue to report annually on the estimated costs and the actual costs of the meetings and conferences of the preceding year.³ The estimated and actual costs of the mandated CCW activities of 2024, comprising both conferencing and non-conferencing costs, are available on the financial website.

22. The Conference also requested the ISU to submit a report on the status of High Contracting Parties' financial contributions to the CCW.⁴ As of 31 August 2025, 91.4% of assessed contributions for the 2025 CCW account was received. Of the US\$ 1,362,200.20 billed, US\$ 117,469.14 remain as outstanding payment. Outstanding amounts from closed accounts (2024 and prior years) are US\$ 169,048.65. The ISU urges High Contracting Parties to meet their financial commitments in a timely manner at the beginning of each year to allow for proper functioning of the ISU.

23. The 2019 Meeting of High Contracting Parties established a voluntary Working Capital Fund to provide liquidity during the financial year with a view to ensuring the stability of ISU support to the Convention.⁵ At the time of reporting, the Fund balance amounts to US\$ 407,504 according to the financial dashboard. All High Contracting Parties are encouraged to contribute to the Working Capital Fund to ensure continuity of the ISU.

VII. Communication, outreach and coordination

24. Communication with High Contracting Parties, international and regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations is primarily conducted via e-mail and through the UNODA meetings place portal. The ISU updates the mailing list, the UNODA meetings place sites for CCW meetings, and the CCW webpages on a regular basis, to increase its utility not only for High Contracting Parties but also for outreach, awareness-raising and communication to a global audience. In addition, the Unit manages the national annual reports databases on compliance, Amended Protocol II and Protocol V, as well as a restricted webpage for voluntary responses to the IED questionnaire and the relevant restricted financial pages containing financial information on the Convention, including the status of contributions and individual invoices.

25. The ISU contributed to numerous UNODA and UNOG communication and outreach efforts, including to UNODA social media channels, with a view to raising awareness on the CCW and its Protocols and related activities.

26. The ISU also engages in regular communication with States not party to the CCW, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society and academia to raise awareness of and provide information on the Convention. In particular, the ISU briefed new disarmament focal points at the Disarmament Orientation Course co-organized by UNIDR and UNODA Geneva, disarmament fellows and visiting students and responded to requests for tailored briefings on the Conventions and its Protocols from external partners.

³ CCW/CONF.VI/11, Part II, paragraph 33.

⁴ CCW/CONF.VI/11, Part II, paragraph 34.

⁵ CCW/MSP/2019/9, paragraph 35.

27. The ISU maintained regular contact with many academic institutions and non-governmental organizations on matters related to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. The ISU also maintained regular contact with a wide range of international organizations relevant to the Convention and is an active participant in processes, outreach and implementation efforts undertaken by these organizations.

28. On 3 December 2024, the ISU participated in a peer exchange exercise on universalization organized by the ICRC. The event brought together officeholders of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the CCW, and other Geneva-based ISUs. The ISU presented its universalization strategy, shared good practices and reflected on lessons learned from universalization activities and challenges encountered in promoting awareness of the CCW. Discussions underscored the value of strengthened cooperation among ISUs of humanitarian disarmament treaties, particularly in coordinating advocacy efforts to support universalization, when appropriate.

29. On 12 March 2025, the ISU attended an informal working group meeting on transparency reporting across arms control instruments, hosted by the Permanent Mission of Australia. Other participants included State representatives, Geneva-based ISUs, UNIDIR, and the ICRC. The presentation and discussions shed light on the common challenges that States face in reporting under the different humanitarian disarmament treaties as well as on ways forward to tackle those challenges. Suggestions included fostering synergies in data collection, raising awareness in a holistic manner across treaties, and promoting common institutional approaches for reporting.

VIII. Future work

30. In 2026, a key priority for the ISU will be supporting the preparations for the Seventh Review Conference of the Convention, in close cooperation with officeholders and High Contracting Parties. This will include providing substantive and procedural support and preparing the necessary documentation for both the Preparatory Committee and the Review Conference.

31. In parallel, the ISU will continue its mandated work of supporting the High Contracting Parties, on request, in the implementation of the CCW and its Protocols and promoting their universalization. This will include providing tailored advice and support to High Contracting Parties and developing guidance, tools and services to strengthen the practical implementation of the Convention and its Protocols at the national, regional and international levels. The ISU will continue to work closely with the officeholders, in support of their mandates and strengthen its work with other United Nations partners, international and regional organizations, civil society and academia to advance universalization and to support High Contracting Parties in achieving the goals of the Convention and its Protocols. To do so, the ISU will rely on the continuing support of the High Contracting Parties.

32. To increase reporting under the CCW and its Protocols, the ISU will continue to offer training and guidance to support High Contracting Parties in national reporting, raise awareness at the national level, advocate for the designation of national points of contact and encourage the establishment national coordination frameworks to facilitate reporting. The ISU will also strive to enhance the functionality of the CCW reporting databases to facilitate submission of national reports and support the exchange of good practices in implementation among High Contracting Parties.
