

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 13 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of the report of the CCW Sponsorship Programme

Report of the Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Sponsorship Programme

Submitted by the Steering Committee of the Sponsorship Programme

I. Introduction

1. The CCW Sponsorship Programme was established by a decision of the High Contracting Parties at the Third Review Conference of the Convention.¹ The goals of the Sponsorship Programme are to strengthen the implementation of and respect for the Convention and its Protocols, and to promote its universalization. The Programme also aims to enhance cooperation, exchange of information and consultations among the High Contracting Parties.

2. In the final document of the Sixth Review Conference of the Convention, the High Contracting Parties solemnly declared “their acknowledgement of the invaluable contribution of the Sponsorship Programme to promote universalization and implementation of the Convention and its annexed Protocols.”² Furthermore, the Sixth Review Conference of the Convention encouraged States in a position to do so to contribute to the Sponsorship Programme.³

3. This report covers the work of the Sponsorship Programme from 15 September 2022 to 13 September 2023.

4. Mr. Nikola Yakov from Bulgaria assumed the role as Coordinator of the Steering Committee in February 2023. The programme is supported by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), and all logistical and administrative issues are managed by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).

II. Activities of the CCW Sponsorship Programme

5. During the reporting period, the Sponsorship Programme financed the attendance of one representative from each of the following States:

(a) 16th Annual Conference of Protocol V (14 November 2022): Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, and Ukraine;

¹ Decision 5 of the final document of the Third Review Conference of the Convention, CCW/CONF.III/11 and Annex IV, 7–17 November 2006.

² Paragraph 16 of the final document of the Sixth Review Conference of the Convention, CCW/CONF.VI/11, 13-17 December 2021.

³ Paragraph 32 of the final document of the Sixth Review Conference of the Convention, CCW/CONF.VI/11, 13-17 December 2021.



(b) 24th Annual Conference of Amended Protocol II (15 November 2022): Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, and Ukraine;

(c) 2022 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention (16-18 November 2022): Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Namibia, and Ukraine;

(d) First 2023 session of the Group of Governmental Experts on emerging technologies in the area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) (6-10 March 2023); Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Niger, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Togo and Tunisia;

(e) Second 2023 session of the Group of Governmental Experts on emerging technologies in the area of LAWS (15-19 May 2023): Costa Rica, El Salvador, Madagascar, Mexico, Peru, and Philippines.

6. The Sponsorship Programme provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen the implementation of the Convention and its annexed Protocols, by enriching and broadening the exchange of information and consultations among the High Contracting Parties.

III. Work of the Steering Committee

7. In accordance with the Steering Committee's decision taken in February 2018 to adopt a yearly planning cycle and selection of sponsored States, a consolidated call for voluntary applications for all CCW meetings to take place in 2023 was circulated on 19 January 2023 with a deadline for submissions of 2 February 2023, 1 pm Geneva time. The Steering Committee of the Sponsorship Programme met on 6 February 2023 in the afternoon to review the financial situation of the Programme and consider all applications received within the deadline. The Committee reached a decision on the sponsorship awardees during the 6 February 2023 meeting. The usual criteria for prioritization were taken into account in the decision process of the Sponsorship Steering Committee (CCW/CONF.III/11, Annex IV, paragraph 4).

8. The sponsored delegates attending the first 2023 session of the Group of Governmental Experts on emerging technologies in the area of LAWS (6-10 March 2023) had the opportunity to meet the Coordinator of the Steering Committee of the Sponsorship Programme during a meeting organized by the CCW ISU on 6 March 2023. The Chair of the GGE on LAWS, Ambassador Flavio Damico, also participated in the meeting and briefed the sponsored delegates on the topic of LAWS and on the GGE process and negotiations.

9. On 22 August 2023, the Coordinator of the Steering Committee sent a letter to High Contracting Parties to the Convention to communicate the recent results of the Sponsorship Programme and to appeal to them to provide a financial contribution to the fund of the Sponsorship Programme.

IV. Financing of the CCW Sponsorship Programme

10. During the reporting period, the Sponsorship Programme benefitted from the generous contributions of Australia and Slovenia. High Contracting Parties in a position to do so are invited to contribute to the fund of the Sponsorship Programme to ensure its continuation and the achievement of its goals. The financial accounts for the Sponsorship Programme as of 13 September 2023 are attached to this report as an annex.

Annex I

Financial situation of the CCW Sponsorship Programme

Table 1 - Accounts 2022 (CHF)

<i>2022</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Carry-over from 2021</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Remaining balance</i>
Travel costs	20 500			
Accommodation	11 805			
Per diem	4 125			
Bank charges	91			
Contributions				
China			8 150	
Slovenia			4 834	
Total	36 521	129 311	12 984	
Remaining balance				105 774

Table 2 - Accounts as of 13 September 2023 (CHF)

<i>2023</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Carry-over from 2022</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Remaining balance</i>
Travel costs	25 782			
Accommodation	10 766			
Per diem	3 740			
Bank charges	40			
Contributions				
Slovenia			4 863	
Australia			15 079	
Total	40 328	105 774	19 942	
Remaining balance 2023				85 388