

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

21 November 2023

English only

Geneva, 15-17 November 2023

Agenda item 7

General exchange of views

Value of Observers to the Work of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

Submitted by Australia on behalf of Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay

We strongly regret attempts to undermine the principles of transparency and openness at this year's Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) by seeking to deny observers the ability to fully participate in our deliberations, as High Contracting Parties have intended.

Civil Society and other relevant organisations played an important role in the development of the CCW leading to its entry into force in 1983. Since that time, observers to the CCW, including intergovernmental organizations, UN organizations, the ICRC, and civil society, continue to make significant substantive contributions that inform the work under the CCW through their unique experience, insight and knowledge which we, High Contracting Parties to the CCW, highly value.

Consistent with the proud history of the CCW, we support the continued inclusion of all observers in the work of the CCW, including the full participation of all observers in the deliberations of the Conference and its subsidiary organs, and in meetings of the Conference and its Main Committees, as well as in meetings under CCW protocols, in accordance with applicable Rules of Procedure and longstanding established practice.

