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

15 November 2024

English only

Geneva, 13-15 November 2024
Agenda item 7
General exchange of views

Working Paper*

Submitted by the Republic of Türkiye

1. The Convention remains a cornerstone of IHL (International Humanitarian Law). It prohibits or restricts the use of weapons with indiscriminate effects and aims to prevent and reduce human suffering. Adherence to this fundamental international regime is of paramount importance. Türkiye fully implements the Convention and the Protocols to which it is a party.

2. Recognizing persistent challenges in regulating dual-use materials for IEDs, we value discussions in the Group of Experts under Amended Protocol II, which are vital for preventing access by terrorists and criminal actors. Recognizing various challenges to control and prevent dual use materials of IEDs to prevent ending up in wrong hands, we look forward to continuing our discussions within the Group of Experts under the AP II.

3. CCW is the right forum to address challenges posed by LAWS. Türkiye actively advocates responsible use of AI in military contexts, promoting transparency, accountability, and humanitarian considerations. We hosted a Regional Workshop on REAIM in Istanbul in May with participation of South East European, Middle East, South Caucasus and Central Asian countries, as well as regional organizations.

4. In line with the importance we attach to protection of civilians in armed conflicts, we endorsed the Political Declaration on EWIPA. We are deeply concerned with extensive use of explosive weapons in Gaza and continued export of weapons to Israel in contradiction with EWIPA Political Declaration commitments.

5. Türkiye, along with a large group of countries initiated a “Joint Letter calling for a halt to arms transfers to Israel”. We made a collective call for immediate steps to halt provision or transfer of arms, munitions, and related equipment to Israel, in all cases where there are reasonable grounds to suspect they may be used in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as stipulated in GA Resolution of 18 September 2024.

6. Explosion of pagers and handheld radios in Lebanon and Syria on 17-18 September 2024, resulting in civilian casualties, requires thorough examination within the scope of APII.

7. We urge the High Contracting Parties to uphold the resolve they demonstrated while negotiating this Convention and its Protocols to help end the suffering of the Palestinian and Lebanese people and join this collective initiative.

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

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