

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

18 November 2024

English only

Geneva, 13-15 November 2024

Agenda item 7

General exchange of views

Working Paper*

Submitted by Lebanon

1. We consider that our meeting should be extremely concerned by the recent “pagers” and “walky-talky” attacks carried out against my country on the 17th and 18th of September by the occupying power Israel. That resulted in the death of around 40 people including children and injuring, maiming and blinding thousands.
2. These attacks are war crimes clearly violating IHL. They were directed against individual civilians, going about their day, not taking a direct part in the hostilities. They were intentionally launched with the knowledge that they will cause incidental loss of life or injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects which would be clearly excessive in relation to the concrete and direct overall military advantage anticipated. Moreover, these attacks contradict the spirit and the letter of the CCW Convention, and its protocols, in particular, protocol two in its article 7.
3. If generalized this extreme type of cyber warfare would run counter our efforts to universalize the CCW convention, or to protect humankind from the scourge of unbridled hostility or unregulated war and violence. If at any moment, familiar objects like our microphones, smartphones, laptops, could start exploding after being improvised by a terrorist group, or a secret service working for a peace hating country, we will be all living in panic, mistrust and fear.
4. By carrying out these attacks, the occupying power, Israel, has once again shown its contempt for the noble goals underlying the CCW. Owing to her mischievous “creativity” 'Paging' is now associated with mass murder and criminal intent.
5. Therefore, these unprecedented attacks should be condemned outright. The perpetrators should be held accountable, and all efforts should be exerted to prevent their recurrence in the future.
6. It is in the interest of humanity to keep communication technologies and innovation efforts at the service of the charter and our shared values: development, tolerance, dialogue and global prosperity and not to weaponize them to spread indiscriminate death and mass terror adding fuel to the fire of conflicts and further threatening the global peace and security.
7. Hence, if we raise this matter here, it is not for politicizing our debates nor for creating polarization, our sole aim is to draw attention to a very concerning incident that seriously undermines the very essence of our common business.

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

