

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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Agenda item 7

General exchange of views

Working Paper*

Submitted by the Republic of Korea

1. The Republic of Korea reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the CCW, which plays an indispensable role in balancing security and humanitarian concerns in armed conflicts. In a world marked by the highest number of conflicts since World War II, and the precarious volatility created thereby, the need to uphold this balance has never been more important and urgent. In this context, the Republic of Korea attaches great importance to our ongoing work within the CCW framework and looks forward to making substantial progress ahead of the next review conference in 2026.
2. The Republic of Korea also welcomes Singapore's and Trinidad and Tobago's ratification of the CCW and calls on all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention without delay.
3. To continue the crucial work within the CCW framework, it is vital to maintain the Convention's financial integrity and sustainability. Alongside implementing the Consolidated Financial Measures adopted at the 6th Review Conference, full and timely payment of obligatory assessed contributions by all High Contracting Parties will be essential to strengthening the CCW's financial standing and functioning.
4. A unique strength of the CCW is its flexibility to adapt to an evolving security landscape. In this regard, the work of the LAWS GGE enables the High Contracting Parties to address disruptive and emerging technologies that may shape the nature and characteristics of armed conflict in the future.
5. The Republic of Korea welcomes the Group's focused exchanges on what would comprise a set of elements of an instrument and other possible measures as the Group is mandated to consider and formulate by consensus. The Republic of Korea also wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the Chair of the Group, Ambassador Robert in den Bosch of the Netherlands and his team for their dedicated efforts and stewardship. In particular, the Chair's rolling text on key elements and efforts to build consensus have been highly valuable and constructive. We look forward to continuing this text-based deliberations, and in this regard support the newly formed Friends of the Chair as we look forward to the next round of inter-sessional discussions and GGE meetings.
6. Recognizing that the GGE is the most appropriate forum for developing normative and operational frameworks for LAWS, it is essential for the High Contracting Parties to remain fully focused on fulfilling its mandate. At the same time, the Republic of Korea supports outreach efforts to enhance the understanding of non-HCPs such as those that were carried out by the GGE Chair on the margins of this year's UN First Committee. We note that the informal meeting that will be organized next year in the implementation of the UNFC

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



LAWS resolution this year, and look forward to the meeting that will contribute to the fulfilment of the mandate of the LAWS GGE. Meanwhile, the Republic of Korea would like to draw attention to our Explanation of Vote jointly delivered by a group of states, for a more detailed explanation of our position on the proposed informal consultations.

7. The CCW is a cornerstones of the rules-based international order and multilateralism that has contributed to international peace and security for decades. Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine not only undermines the global norm against the indiscriminate use of certain conventional weapons but also endangers the lives and livelihoods of innocent civilians. We urge Russia, or for this matter any country, to fully comply with its obligations under this Convention as well as all relevant international law.
