

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

12 November 2025

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Agenda item 16

Consideration and adoption of the final report

Final report

I. Introduction

1. The 2024 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 (CCW), held from 13 to 15 November 2024 in Geneva recalled that the 2023 Meeting of the High Contracting to the CCW, held from 15 to 17 November 2023 in Geneva, decided as contained in its Final Report (CCW/MSP/2023/7, paragraph 20):

- “That the work of the open-ended Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems, established by Decision 1 of the Fifth Review Conference as contained in document CCW/CONF.V/10, adhering to the agreed recommendations contained in document CCW/CONF.V/2, is to continue to strengthen the Convention. In the context of the objectives and purpose of the Convention, the Group is to further consider and formulate, by consensus, a set of elements of an instrument, without prejudging its nature, and other possible measures to address emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems, taking into account the example of existing Protocols within the Convention, proposals presented by High Contracting Parties and other options related to the normative and operational framework on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems, building upon the recommendations and conclusions of the Group, and bringing in expertise on legal, military and technological aspects;
- The rules of procedure of the Sixth Review Conference shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the Group;
- The Group shall conduct its work and adopt its report by consensus and shall submit a report to the Seventh Review Conference. The Group should complete its work as soon as possible preferably before the end of 2025, and the Chair of the Group will update the annual Meeting of the High Contracting Parties on the work of the Group. The widest possible participation of all High Contracting Parties is to be promoted in accordance with the goals of the CCW Sponsorship Program. The Group will meet for 10 days every year.”

2. The 2024 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW also decided to continue monitoring the financial situation of the CCW (CCW/MSP/2024/7, paragraph 25).

3. The 2024 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW also decided to organize in 2025, in in-person format in accordance with the regular practice under CCW, and subject to available resources, the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention from 12 to 14 November 2025 (CCW/MSP/2024/7, paragraph 27).

4. The 2024 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW also decided to nominate a representative of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) as Chairperson of the 2025 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention (CCW/MSP/2024/7, paragraph 28).

5. In September 2025, the coordinators of the Group of the NAM, the Western European and Others Group (WEOG) and the Eastern European and Others Group (EEG) informed the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) that their respective Groups were not in a position to identify a candidate for the role of Chairperson of the 2025 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties.

6. On 17 October 2025, the coordinator of the Group of the NAM informed the ISU that the Group nominated Ambassador Arthur Sewankambo Kafeero, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva for the position of Chairperson of the 2025 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties. This nomination was based on the understanding that the duration of the 2025 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties be reduced to a one-day meeting, to consider and adopt the necessary administration and procedural decisions for the continuity of the Convention's work in 2026, without prejudice to any future Meetings of the High Contracting Parties. There would be no general debate but working papers would be able to be submitted in writing.

7. The High Contracting Parties to the CCW endorsed, through a written silence procedure, Ambassador Arthur Sewankambo Kafeero, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, nominated by the Group of the NAM, as Chairperson of the 2025 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, and the proposals reflected in paragraph 6.

8. The 2024 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW requested the ISU to continue to report annually on its activities, including on its estimated costs and actual costs (CCW/MSP/2024/7, paragraph 29).

II. Organization of and participation in the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties

9. The Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention was held in Geneva on 12 November 2025, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Arthur Sewankambo Kafeero, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, elected as Chairperson through a written silence procedure.

10. Ms. Nora Allgaier, Political Affairs Officer, UNODA Geneva Branch, served as the Secretary of the Meeting. Ms. Sophie Guillermin-Golet, Political Affairs Officer, UNODA Geneva Branch, and Mr. Clément Bailly, Associate Political Affairs Officer, UNODA Geneva Branch, served in the Secretariat of the Meeting.

11. The following High Contracting Parties to the Convention participated in the work of the Meeting: [...].

12. The following observer delegations participated in the work of the Meeting: [...].

13. The representatives of the following organizations participated in the work of the Meeting: [...].

14. The following non-governmental organizations participated in the work of the Meeting: [...].

III. Work of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties

15. The Meeting was opened on 12 November 2025 by the Chairperson, Ambassador Arthur Sewankambo Kafeero, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, only to

facilitate the consideration and adoption of the necessary administrative and procedural decisions for the continuity of the Convention's work in 2026. This does not set a precedent for the future.

16. The Meeting was provided with the documents listed in Annex II. The documents of the Meeting are available in all official languages on the dedicated webpage on CCW website (<https://meetings.unoda.org/node/74780>), as well as through the United Nations Official Document System (ODS), at <http://documents.un.org>.

IV. Arrangements for the meetings in 2026

17. The Meeting decided to organize in 2026, in an in-person format in accordance with the regular practice under CCW, and subject to available resources, recalling the recommendation from the 2024 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to urge all High Contracting Parties to honour their financial obligations under the Convention (CCW/MSP/2024/7, paragraph 24), the following CCW related activities:

(a) The Meeting of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on 9 November 2026, in accordance with the relevant decisions taken by the 19th Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V;

(b) The Group of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II from 10-11 November 2026, in accordance with the relevant decisions taken by the 27th Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II;

(c) The Group of Governmental Experts of the High Contracting Parties related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), for a duration of 10 days, from 2-6 March 2026 and from 31 August-4 September 2026. The Meeting also adopted the relevant cost estimates for 2026 as contained in CCW/MSP/2025/5;

(d) The 20th Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on 12 November 2026, in accordance with the relevant decisions taken by the 19th Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V;

(e) The 28th Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II on 13 November 2026, in accordance with the relevant decisions taken by the 27th Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II;

(f) The Preparatory Committee of the Seventh Review Conference from 7-9 September 2026. The Meeting also adopted the relevant cost estimates as contained in CCW/MSP/2025/6;

(g) The Seventh Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention from 16-20 November 2026. The Meeting also adopted the relevant cost estimates as contained in CCW/MSP/2025/7, and recommended the provisional agenda (Annex I).

18. The Meeting called upon all High Contracting Parties and States not yet party to the Convention and in a position to do so to contribute to the CCW Sponsorship Programme to promote the universalization and strengthening the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

19. The EEG renounced its right to nominate a representative as President-designate of the Seventh Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention. The Meeting decided to nominate a representative of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) as the President-designate of the Seventh Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention.

V. Conclusion of the Meeting

20. At its meeting on 12 November 2025, the Meeting adopted its final report, as contained in document CCW/MSP/2025/CRP.1/Rev.1, to be issued as document CCW/MSP/2025/8.

Annex I

Provisional agenda

Seventh Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention

(As recommended by the 2025 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties on 12 November 2025)

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Confirmation of the nomination of the President-designate.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
5. Confirmation of the nomination of the Secretary-General of the Conference.
6. Organization of work, including that of any subsidiary bodies of the Conference.
7. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the Review Conference, Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the main Committees, the Drafting Committee, and the Credentials Committee.
8. Appointment of the Credentials Committee.
9. Submission of the report of the Preparatory Committee.
10. Submission of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts.
11. General exchange of views.
12. Review of the scope and operation of the Convention and its annexed protocols.
13. Consideration of any proposal for the Convention and its existing protocols.
14. Consideration of proposals for additional protocols to the Convention and other proposals.
15. Financial issues related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols and relations between High Contracting Parties (HCP) and United Nations.
16. Other matters.
17. Report of the Credentials Committee.
18. Reports of the Main Committees.
19. Report of the Drafting Committee.
20. Consideration and adoption of the final documents.
21. Closing of the Conference.

Annex II

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
CCW/MSP/2025/1	Provisional agenda
CCW/MSP/2025/2	Provisional programme of work
CCW/MSP/2025/3	Report of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Sponsorship Programme
CCW/MSP/2025/4	Report of the Implementation Support Unit
CCW/MSP/2025/5	Estimated Costs 2026 Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)
CCW/MSP/2025/6	Estimated Costs Preparatory Committee meeting for the 2026 Seventh Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention
CCW/MSP/2025/7	Estimated Costs Seventh Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention
CCW/MSP/2025/8	Final report
CCW/MSP/2025/INF.1 [English/French/Spanish only]	List of participants