

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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English only

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

General exchange of views

Working paper

Submitted by Ireland^{*, 1}

1. We congratulate Ambassador Kafeero on their assumption to the Presidency of this Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), and assure them of Ireland's full cooperation and support. We also reiterate Ireland's strong support for inclusive participation in this forum, including the meaningful engagement of civil society and gender-responsive approaches to disarmament.
2. Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and adds the following remarks in a national capacity.
3. Ireland remains gravely concerned by the continued use of explosive weapons in populated areas in conflicts around the world — including in Gaza, Ukraine, Lebanon, and Sudan and elsewhere. Beyond the immediate devastation, unexploded ordnance and explosive remnants can inflict harm for years, hindering reconstruction, impeding humanitarian access and bringing long-lasting psychosocial impacts.
4. Ireland welcomes the agreement on a ceasefire and hostage release deal. Ireland calls for an immediate focus on ensuring humanitarian aid into and throughout Gaza. The people of Gaza have suffered unimaginable suffering. All parties must adhere to their commitments in full, desist from any actions inconsistent with what has been agreed, and continue to negotiate in good faith to ensure full implementation.
5. Ireland remains deeply troubled by violations of IHL, including of obligations arising from the CCW and its protocols. Accountability is essential. We urge all High Contracting Parties to fully implement and respect their legal commitments.
6. The CCW is a cornerstone of international humanitarian law, there to protect our citizens, military, and peacekeeping personnel during times of conflict. We strongly urge all non-States Parties to adhere to the Convention without delay, and call for full adherence to all five protocols. Ireland underlines that the Political Declaration on EWIPA, adopted in Dublin three years ago and endorsed by 89 states so far, complements the CCW and its goals through the promotion of adherence to IHL and continual development of best practices.² We look forward to advancing the Declaration in San José next week.
7. The CCW was designed to respond to ever-evolving means and methods of warfare. Regrettably, meaningful discussion on a number of relevant matters continues to be blocked

* The present document was submitted after the deadline in order to reflect the most recent information.

¹ In lieu of delivery of prepared statement which was not possible due to procedural nature of discussion/lack of general exchange of views.

² The number of endorsements of the Political Declaration has now risen to 90 since original submission of this Working Paper.



by misuse of the practice of consensus. Such behaviour is damaging to the convention and contrary to its spirit.

8. Ireland welcomes the continued substantive discussions taking place in the GGE on LAWS, under the leadership of Ambassador in den Bosch, his team and the Friends of the Chair. Autonomous weapons pose fundamental and pressing legal and ethical concerns. It is vital that the GGE complete its mandate and produce a concrete outcome, paving the way to negotiations, in response to the urgency voiced around the world and in this room - including by the UN General Assembly, UN Secretary-General, international and regional conferences, the ICRC, and civil society. Ireland joins global calls to urgently establish legally binding rules on autonomous weapons systems, including through the prohibition of certain systems.

9. We thank Austria for their leadership on this year's LAWS resolution, which Ireland was pleased to co-sponsor. It is important to maintain momentum at a time when developments surrounding autonomous weapons systems risk outpacing our efforts to both understand and properly regulate them.

10. Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines remains an issue of humanitarian urgency. Ireland reiterates that expert discussions within the CCW on this issue would benefit all, and contribute to reduced humanitarian harm.

11. We conclude by conveying Ireland's deep concern over reported use of incendiary weapons and weapons with incendiary effects, in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and Ukraine. We reiterate that all parties must strictly comply with IHL including the general prohibition for weapons, means or methods of warfare with indiscriminate effects. We again call for renewed discussions on the implementation and universalisation of Protocol III.
