

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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Working paper

Submitted by China *

1. The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) is an important legal instrument in the field of conventional arms control. It plays an irreplaceable role in addressing the humanitarian problems caused by the indiscriminate use of conventional weapons and provides a crucial platform for exploring and agreeing on possible recommendations on options related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) .
2. As a High Contracting Party to the Convention and its five Protocols, China attaches great importance to and actively supports all work under the CCW framework. China has faithfully fulfilled its obligations under the Convention, submitted its national reports on implementation in a timely manner, paid its assessed contributions in full and on time, and made annual donations to the Convention's Implementation Support Unit to help developing countries participate in CCW-related meetings and activities.
3. China attaches great importance to the humanitarian issues caused by landmines and actively engages in international exchanges and capacity-building cooperation in humanitarian demining and clearance of explosive remnants of war (ERW). In September 2024, during the Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that China would carry out an "action for a mine-free Africa". So far, two batches of projects have been successfully implemented, providing strong support for mine action capacity building, survey of contaminated areas, and mine risk education in countries such as Ethiopia and Somalia as well as for the African Union. Since 1998, through material assistance, personnel training, on-site guidance, victim assistance, and mine risk education, China has provided demining support to over 40 countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America, and held nearly 30 international humanitarian demining training courses. Through participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations, China has also helped mine-affected countries clear tens of thousands of landmines and various types of unexploded ordnance.
4. China has consistently taken a responsible and constructive approach to the global governance of military artificial intelligence (AI). China advocates the principles of people centered and AI for good, and holds that the development and application of AI in the military domain should contribute to the maintenance of peace, comply with international humanitarian law and other applicable international law, and strive to minimize collateral casualties. China has participated constructively in the CCW Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, and has submitted position papers such as China's Position Paper on Regulating Military Applications of Artificial Intelligence and China's Position Paper on Strengthening Ethical Governance of Artificial Intelligence, putting forward China's proposals for regulating the Military Applications of AI. China

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



believes that the CCW provides the most appropriate forum for discussions on LAWS, and welcomes and supports the GGE in continuing its discussions on relevant issues in accordance with its mandate, with a view to achieving substantive progress as soon as possible.

5. In September this year, President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Governance Initiative, which carries important implications for enhancing global security governance in the field of conventional arms control. China stands ready to work with all parties under the CCW framework to jointly promote the implementation of this initiative. To this end, China proposes the following:

6. First, strengthening national responsibilities. China supports a balanced approach to legitimate military security needs and humanitarian concerns, and encourages all countries to enhance their control capacities in various aspects of conventional weapons management. China encourages states not party to the Convention to accede to it at an early date and calls on all countries to continue strengthening dialogue and consultation under the CCW framework to enhance the Convention's universality, effectiveness, and authority.

7. Second, adhering to consensus-building. China supports the equal participation of all States in CCW discussions, particularly in strengthening information exchange and experience sharing in policy and law enforcement. China supports mine-affected countries in strengthening their own capacity building, enhancing self-reliance, and achieving sustainable development of mine action.

8. Third, enhancing practical effectiveness. China supports all countries in carrying out international exchanges and cooperation, encourages developed countries and capable developing countries to increase international assistance, and supports all parties in innovating ideas, diversifying resource allocation channels, and improving the effectiveness of international cooperation, including in demining assistance.

9. At present, the international security situation is grave and complex. Prolonged and escalating geopolitical conflicts, coupled with the excessive accumulation, indiscriminate use, and irresponsible transfer of conventional weapons, have aggravated regional tensions and triggered severe humanitarian crises. Strengthening conventional arms control has become an urgent task for the international community. The year 2026 marks the 45th anniversary of the opening for signature of the CCW and will witness the convening of its Seventh Review Conference. All parties should take this opportunity to conduct a comprehensive review of the Convention's implementation, assess its relevance to the current situation, and decide on the way forward. We should work together to enhance the universality and effectiveness of the Convention and foster a favorable international environment for advancing conventional arms control. China will actively support the preparatory process for the Review Conference.
