

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

26 November 2025

English only

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

General exchange of views

Working paper

Submitted by Australia*

1. Australia attaches great value to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its five Protocols. We deeply regret that this meeting of High Contracting Parties has been truncated to one day to agree a procedural report. Implementation of the CCW and its Protocols is more important than ever and to do this, focused discussions involving all High Contracting Parties, stakeholders and observers are required. Obstructionist tactics that have prevented such formal debate and discussion from occurring in the CCW this year and in recent years must cease. Consistent with the joint working paper submitted by Australia at this year's meeting of High Contracting Parties, we support the inclusion of all observers in the work of the CCW. Observers make substantive contributions to our work and bring unique experience, insight and knowledge which we highly value.
2. Annual meetings provide an important opportunity for High Contracting Parties to reflect on the objective of the CCW – to prohibit or restrict the use of weapons that cause unnecessary or unjustifiable suffering to combatants or affect civilians indiscriminately. There are plenty of reasons not only to reflect but take up our work with more vigour.
3. Anti-personnel landmines, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and victim-activated booby-traps continue to cause indiscriminate death, displace populations and hinder sustainable development in many parts of the world. It is disturbing that, in 2024, at least 60 States were contaminated with anti-personnel mines, putting lives at risk. Meanwhile, IEDs account for more than 40 percent of all global civilian casualties from explosive weapons.
4. Clearly, more work is needed to address these threats. We welcome the adoption of the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan 2025-2029 at the Fifth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in November 2024. Australia joined States Parties at the Fifth Review Conference to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, and uphold and strengthen the norms established by the Convention.
5. We also remain convinced that the CCW is equipped to address new weapons technologies. The mandate agreed by CCW for the Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) has enabled constructive discussions to be held under the exceptional stewardship of the Netherlands as the GGE Chair. Australia will continue to do its utmost to contribute to a successful GGE outcome.
6. Outside of the CCW, Australia acknowledges the broader work underway on the Responsible use of AI in the Military Domain, including the REAIM Summit process. Australia was pleased to make a submission to the UN Secretary-General's report on AI in

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



the Military Domain and is also engaging in the UN Disarmament Commission's Working Group on emerging technologies in the context of international security.

7. Australia supports transparent and timely transparency reporting under the CCW. Transparency reporting promotes trust and confidence. It is an important tool to monitor progress in implementing the CCW, and facilitates international cooperation and assistance between High Contracting Parties. Transparency reporting requirements include the CCW Compliance Mechanism; Article 13(4) of Amended Protocol II; and Article 10(2)(b) of Protocol V. Australia welcomes the fact that 2025 marks the highest-ever number of transparency reports submitted under Protocol V, with 59 States – nearly two-thirds of High Contracting Parties – having submitted reports this year.

8. Australia encourages all States that have not yet done so to meet their transparency reporting obligations. We draw particular attention to the CCW Guide to Reporting, made available by UNODA to support High Contracting Parties to meet their obligations.

9. Achieving the full universalisation of the CCW and its Protocols remains crucial to fully realising the CCW's objectives. We encourage other States yet to join to do so.
