

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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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

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. At a time of profound global uncertainty, this Meeting of the High Contracting Parties convenes under the shadow of intensifying geopolitical tensions, rapid technological changes, and the continuous erosion of global norms. Conflicts in various regions continue to inflict grave humanitarian consequences.
2. In this context, the Republic of Korea expresses its deep regret that the Meetings of the High Contracting Parties in recent years have not fully achieved their intended purpose and that this year's meeting has even been shortened to a single day. The annual meetings serve as a vital platform for the exchange of views and ideas to further strengthen the CCW framework. We sincerely hope that the current political impasse will be resolved and the full functioning of the annual meetings will be restored. Against this backdrop, we hope that the Review Conference next year will serve as a valuable opportunity to revitalize and enhance our framework and working methods.
3. To continue our 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. The Republic of Korea would like to take this opportunity to state our position on the work of the Group of Government Experts (GGE) on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) under the CCW.
5. 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 emerging technologies that may shape the nature and characteristics of armed conflict in the future.
6. The Republic of Korea welcomes this year's substantive and constructive discussion of the Group. My delegation 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. As we enter the final year of the three-year mandate, we should redouble our efforts to build consensus on the possible elements of an instrument and other possible measures that the Group is mandated to consider and formulate. We should focus on fulfilling our mandate rather than hastily reaching a one-sided conclusion.

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



7. Recognizing that the GGE is the most appropriate forum for developing normative and operational frameworks for LAWS, we believe the future discussions on LAWS should continue to take place within the CCW framework. In this regard, we would like to draw attention to our Explanation of Position jointly delivered by a group of states during this First Committee, for a more detailed explanation of our position on the way forward.

8. 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.
