

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 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland *

I. Introduction

1. The United Kingdom expresses thanks to Ambassador Arthur Sewankambo Kafeero of Uganda for chairing the 2025 Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.
2. We wish to express our disappointment that our meeting has been confined to administrative and procedural matters. We continue to believe that the CCW is a vital forum for states with diverse military and humanitarian objectives to come together and there is much that should have been discussed. We continue to see evidence of why the CCW remains important, given the devastation wrought in Sudan, Ukraine, Myanmar, Palestine and elsewhere. While there are some glimmers of progress – in particular in the Middle East – this does not take away from the generational impact of the use of many of the weapons within the scope of the CCW, and their continued use in many of these conflicts today. All High Contracting Parties are obliged to fulfil their commitments, and all States must continue to abide by international law in their conduct, including international humanitarian law.
3. Renewed effort must be made ahead of the Seventh Review Conference next year to ensure that meeting is organised and proceeds smoothly.
4. The United Kingdom continues to encourage all States not yet party to accede without delay and we have raised membership of the CCW with a number of states over the past year

II. Amended Protocol II

5. Amended Protocol II remains important both as a baseline setting limits and expectations in what States must and must not do with regards to landmines and IEDs, and in setting clear guidelines. It sits alongside the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions as a crucial part of the humanitarian disarmament architecture and we will continue to advocate for states to join the Mine Ban Convention and the CCM and become High Contracting Parties to the Protocol. However, we recognise the increased relevance of APII from a year ago, with more States set to be bound by its provisions and its provisions only.
6. The continued use of anti-personnel landmines and improvised explosive devices, including by High Contracting Parties in ways in contradiction with their obligations, is a

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



significant concern and all High Contracting Parties must abide by their commitments to APII and international humanitarian law.

7. We welcome the Protocol's continued efforts to keep up with the IED threat which continues to be the leading cause of civilian deaths around the world. We must continue to look for ways to improve our response, exploring complementarities other treaties, including the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Global Framework on Through-Life Conventional Ammunition Management. We were pleased at the progress made at the preparatory meeting of the Global Framework in New York in June 2025 and look forward to progress towards the first Meeting of States in 2027. We should continue to look for opportunities to promote its implementation and synergies with APII and related instruments

III. Protocol III

8. Many High Contracting Parties continue to believe there are areas to discuss relevant to Protocol III. As the sole forum with incendiary weapons within its direct scope the United Kingdom believes the CCW should provide a forum to do this openly. We expect to see discussion of this in preparation for the Seventh Review Conference in 2026.

IV. Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems

9. Discussions in the GGE on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems under the current strengthened mandate have been constructive and detailed. Much of this progress is a result of the introduction of a rolling text and the instigation of a Friends of the Chair process, both of which have directly encouraged delegations to engage fully and deeply and has inspired the level of discussion that we have seen recently. Members of the UK delegation have been involved in this LAWS GGE since its inception so we can say with direct experience that we have witnessed a significant step change in the level of discussion. The Rolling Text represents the best opportunity for this group to fulfill its mandate and to move forward using that as the basis for further discussions and deliberations, particularly on key issues such as characterisation and application of International Humanitarian Law. The current mandate provides the GGE with the clear opportunity to make meaningful progress with a view to delivering the results that the international community is expecting, and we continue to believe the CCW remains the best forum to advance any further discussion. It sets us a definite goal to achieve and allows good time in which to do so. The UK continues to stand ready to work constructively and proactively in fulfilling the mandate of the GGE.

V. Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas

10. The UK looks forward to participating in the second Conference on EWIPA, to be hosted by Costa Rica on 18 – 19 November 2025. Two years on, the Declaration remains extremely relevant, with explosive weapons continuing to be used in populated areas with abandon in many areas of the world, with reverberating effects for many years beyond conflict. We hope to see progress and clear next steps next week, which can complement the work of the CCW going forward.

VI. Protocol V

11. Since the UK's ratification of Protocol V in November 2024 we continue to look for ways to increase awareness of the UK's obligations and promote the Protocol in discussions with other states.
