Draft Final Declaration of the Seventh Review Conference

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, which met in Geneva from 16 to 20 November 2026, to review the scope and operation of the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto and to consider any proposal for amendments of the Convention or of the existing Protocols, as well as proposals for additional protocols relating to other categories of conventional weapons not covered by the existing annexed Protocols,

Recalling the Declarations adopted by the First Review Conference in 1996, the Second Review Conference in 2001, the Third Review Conference in 2006, the Fourth Review Conference in 2011, the Fifth Review Conference in 2016, and the Sixth Review Conference in 2021,

Reaffirming their conviction that 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 is a major instrument of international humanitarian law, which contributes to both preventing and reducing the suffering of civilians and combatants,

Recognising that most major armed conflicts are non-international in character, and that such conflicts have been brought within the scope of the Convention and its annexed Protocols by the amendment of Article 1 of the Convention,

Emphasizing their determination to promote the universality of the Convention and its annexed Protocols with the goal of achieving global adherence and the importance of all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention and its Protocols without delay,

Emphasizing also the importance of the comprehensive implementation of the Convention and its annexed Protocols including through the dissemination of information to armed forces and the civilian population, the adoption of appropriate technical measures and legislative provisions concerning both the type and use of weapons, and measures, including legal measures where appropriate for the prevention, enforcement, investigation and suppression of breaches of the regime,

Recognizing the important role international cooperation and assistance can play in the implementation of the Convention and its annexed Protocols,

Recognizing the importance of a balanced involvement of women and men in the meetings under the CCW and its Protocols in support of the efforts of High Contracting Parties to address the issues related to the CCW and its Protocols.

Acknowledging the key role of the Convention in monitoring ongoing and new developments in weapons, means and methods of war that may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects, and in related science and technology, with a view to ensuring the continued relevance, integrity and adequacy of the Convention,

Recognising also the crucial role of the International Committee of the Red Cross and encouraging it to continue to work to facilitate further ratifications and accessions to the Convention and its annexed Protocols, to disseminate their contents and to lend its expertise to future Conferences and other meetings related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols,

Acknowledging the invaluable humanitarian efforts of international, regional and non-governmental organisations in mitigating the humanitarian impact of armed conflicts,

Recalling the obligation of all parties to an armed conflict to take all feasible precautions in the use of mines including anti-personnel mines and mines other than anti-personnel mines, as defined by the original Protocol II and the Amended Protocol II in the

framework of the Convention, with a view to avoiding and in any event to minimizing incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians and damage to civilian objects,

Deeply concerned at the humanitarian and development problems caused by the presence of explosive remnants of war, which constitute a danger to the civilian population as well as an obstacle to reconstruction, restoration of normal social conditions and economic development and in this context reaffirming the need to further develop international cooperation and assistance with this respect,

Acknowledging the foreseeable effects of explosive remnants of war on civilian populations as a factor to be considered in applying the International Humanitarian Law rules of precautions, distinction and proportionality,

Deeply concerned at the indiscriminate use and effects of IED and at the increasing global impact of IED attacks worldwide, in particular through the perpetration of terrorist acts and the negative impact of these attacks on socioeconomic development, infrastructure and freedom of movement on the security and stability of States, and thus underlining the need to address this issue in order to achieve relevant goals and targets under the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development;

I.

Solemnly declare:

1. Their commitment to respect and comply fully, in accordance with the norms and principles of international law, with the objectives and provisions of the Convention and its annexed Protocols to which they are party as authoritative international instruments governing the use of certain conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects.

2. Their acknowledgement that all parties to a conflict have an obligation to comply with international humanitarian law during an armed conflict and for High Contracting Parties to apply, inter alia, the prohibitions and restrictions of the Convention and its annexed Protocols to which they are party.

3. Their desire that all High Contracting Parties respect and ensure respect for the revised scope of application of the Convention to the fullest extent possible, and their determination to encourage all High Contracting Parties which have not yet done so to ratify, accept, approve or accede to, as appropriate, the amendment to Article 1 without delay.

4. Their determination to encourage all States to become parties, as soon as possible, to the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I), the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996 (Amended Protocol II), the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III), the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV), and the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) and to encourage all High Contracting Parties to respect and ensure respect for the substantive provisions of these Protocols.

5. Their commitment to implement fully the Convention and its annexed Protocols to which they are party, and to keep the provisions of the Convention and its annexed Protocols under review in order to ensure their provisions remain relevant to modern conflicts.

6. Their determination to consult and cooperate with each other in order to facilitate the full implementation of the obligations contained in the Convention and its annexed Protocols to which they are party, thereby promoting compliance.

7. Their commitment to the full implementation of, and compliance with, the Convention and its annexed Protocols to which they are party, and in this respect, to fulfil their legal, technical and reporting obligations.

8. Their commitment to continue to contribute to the further development of international humanitarian law and in this context to keep under review the development of

new weapons and uses of weapons, which may have indiscriminate effects or cause unnecessary suffering.

9. Their determination to minimise the humanitarian harm and to ensure full compliance with IHL, in the use of mines, including anti-personnel mines and mines other than anti-personnel mines, as defined by the original Protocol II and the Amended Protocol II in the framework of the Convention, and to take appropriate measures before, during and after active hostilities to enhance protection of civilians, and to take appropriate measures to facilitate post-conflict clearance operations.

10. Their determination to strengthen the respect for international humanitarian law and to address, in the context and objectives of the Convention and its annexed Protocols, the challenges presented by the use of conventional weapons during armed conflict, inter alia in areas where there are concentrations of civilians and their impact on civilians.

11. Their determination to urge and support States which do not already do so to conduct reviews to determine whether any new weapon, means or methods of warfare would be prohibited under international humanitarian law or other rules of international law applicable to them.

12. Their continuing commitment to assist, to the extent feasible, humanitarian demining missions, operating with the consent of the host State and/or the relevant High Contracting Parties to the conflict, in particular by providing all necessary information in their possession covering the location of all known minefields, mined areas, mines, explosive remnants of war, booby-traps and other devices in the area in which the mission is performing its functions.

13. Their acknowledgement of the invaluable contributions that High Contracting Parties to Protocols of the Convention make to providing care and rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of victims of explosive remnants of war and their encouragement of such High Contracting Parties to continue such assistance to the extent possible and their acknowledgement of the complementarity of these efforts with efforts in the area of victim assistance under other mine-action related conventions.

14. Their acknowledgement of the significant contribution of the Group of Experts of Amended Protocol II on the issue of IED, which has inter alia contributed to raising awareness of the worldwide threat posed by IED.

15. Their commitment to continue to address the problem of IED in the context of Amended Protocol II, acknowledging of the need to address the threat posed by IED in relevant fora, at appropriate levels and by multiple stakeholders, and stressing the need for coordination with various existing initiatives and approaches relating to IED.

16. Their acknowledgement of the invaluable contribution of the Sponsorship Programme to promote the universalization and implementation of the Convention and its annexed Protocols, and express their appreciation for the administrative support provided by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining to the Programme.

17. [Placeholder on LAWS]

II.

With the aim of continuing to advance the Convention and its Protocols over the next review cycle, the Conference reached consensus on the following actions:

Universalization

18. The officeholders of the CCW, Protocol V and Amended Protocol II are to promote universalization of the Convention and its Protocols, and specifically to address States not party, coordinate their activities giving consideration, inter alia, to the elaboration of an action plan and, under the Standing Agenda Item on Universalization of the annual Meeting of High Contracting Parties, to report on their efforts and the progress made in this area.

19. High Contracting Parties under the Standing Agenda Item on Universalization are encouraged to report on their initiatives to promote universalization of the Convention and its Protocols and to consider adhering to the Protocols to which they are not yet a party and report on the steps taken to do so.

20. High Contracting Parties which have not yet done so are to consider adhering to the 2001 amendments to Article 1, which extends Protocols I, II, III and IV to non-international armed conflicts.

21. The Implementation Support Unit is to provide the necessary administrative and substantive support to the officeholders and High Contracting Parties in their efforts to promote universalization, gather information on States not yet party and work towards the objective of universal adherence to the Convention and its Protocols.

Strengthening national implementation and compliance

22. High Contracting Parties reaffirm their commitment to the compliance mechanism for the Convention and its annexed Protocols as agreed at the Third Review Conference and the Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention in 2007.

23. High Contracting Parties are called on to submit compliance reports. The Chairperson of the annual Meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention is tasked with encouraging higher rates of compliance reporting and is required to report on his or her efforts in fulfilment of this task under the standing Agenda Item on Compliance of the annual Meeting of High Contracting Parties.

24. High Contracting Parties are to reinforce their efforts to disseminate information on the Convention and its Protocols to their armed forces and civilian population.

25. High Contracting Parties are to consider and share their experiences on providing assistance and cooperation for the implementation of the Protocols.

Sponsorship Programme

26. High Contracting Parties in a position to do so are encouraged to contribute to the Sponsorship Programme. The Steering Committee of the Sponsorship Programme is to continue to report on its activities and finances each year to the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties.

Implementation Support Unit

27. The Implementation Support Unit is to work effectively and efficiently and in its annual report to the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to continue to report on the estimated costs versus the actual costs of the meetings and conferences of the preceding year.

28. In order to further promote financial transparency and accountability and taking into account the practice of multilateral and other organizations, requests the Implementation Support Unit to provide regular updates on the status of High Contracting Parties' financial contributions to the CCW and its Protocols and to submit a financial report on these matters to the annual Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to be circulated as an official document.

29. The Chairperson of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties is to report each year on the implementation of the above actions.

Financial issues related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols

30. High Contracting Parties and States not parties participating in the meetings of the Convention and its annexed Protocols declare their determination to ensure full compliance with all financial obligations under the Convention and its annexed Protocols as well as to explore measures that could reduce costs and improve the efficiency and financial stability of such meetings without prejudice to the Rules of Procedure and to their quality, and their commitment to address issues arising from outstanding contributions in a timely manner.

III.

The Conference takes the following decisions:

Decision 1

[LAWS]

Decision 2

[Financial issues]

Decision 3

[Sponsorship Programme]

Decision 4

[2027 CCW meetings and estimated costs]

Decision 5

[...]

IV.

Review

The Conference:

31. *Reaffirms* that the right of the parties to an armed conflict to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited, and recalls the obligation to determine, in the study, development, acquisition or adoption of a new weapon, means and method of warfare, whether its employment would, in some or all circumstances, be prohibited under any rule of international law applicable to the High Contracting Parties.

32. *Reaffirms* the need to continue, as appropriate, the codification and progressive development of the rules of international law applicable to certain conventional weapons which may be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects, and recalls the basic principle that reservations to the Convention or its Protocols must be in accordance with the object and purpose of the Convention or its Protocols, respectively.

33. *Underlines* the need to achieve universal adherence to the Convention and its annexed Protocols.

34. *Welcomes* recent ratifications and accessions to the Convention and its annexed Protocols and urges the High Contracting Parties to accord high priority to their diplomatic efforts to encourage further adherence with a view to achieving universal adherence as soon as possible.

Article 1

35. Notes the provisions of Article 1, as amended on 21 December 2001.

36. Calls upon High Contracting Parties which have not yet done so to ratify, accept, approve or accede to, as appropriate, the amendment to Article 1.

Article 2

37. Reaffirms that nothing in the Convention or its annexed Protocols shall be interpreted as detracting from other obligations imposed upon the High Contracting Parties by International Humanitarian Law.

Article 3

38. Notes the provisions of Article 3.

Article 4

39. Acknowledges that 128 High Contracting Parties have ratified, accepted, acceded or succeeded to the Convention.

40. Calls upon States which are not parties to this Convention to ratify, accept, approve or accede to, as appropriate, the Convention, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention.

Article 5

41. Notes the provisions of Article 5.

42. Recalls in particular the provisions of paragraph 3 of this Article, which stipulates that each of the Protocols annexed to the Convention shall enter into force six months after the date by which twenty States have notified their consent to be bound by it.

Article 6

43. Encourages international cooperation in the field of dissemination of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and recognizes the importance of multilateral collaboration relating to instruction, the exchange of experience at all levels, the exchange of instructors and the organization of joint seminars. The Conference underlines the importance of the High Contracting Parties' obligation to disseminate this Convention and its annexed Protocols by which they are bound and, in particular, to include the content in their programmes of military instruction at all levels.

44. Welcomes the work of the Sponsorship Programme to promote awareness and understanding of the Convention and its annexed Protocols.

45. Also welcomes the ongoing work of the Implementation Support Unit to produce promotional materials on the CCW and its Protocols and to maintain and update the CCW website.

Article 7

46. Notes the provisions of Article 7.

47. On compliance, the Conference welcomes the consensus reached on actions to reinforce implementation of the compliance mechanism of the Convention and its annexed Protocols.

Article 8

49. Notes the provisions of Article 8.

50. Welcomes the work of the open-ended Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems. [LAWS]

51. Recalls the consensus reached at all six previous Review Conferences that such conferences should continue to be held on a regular basis.

Article 9

52. Notes with satisfaction that the provisions of this Article have not been invoked.

Article 10

53. Notes the provisions of Article 10.

Article 11

54. Notes the provisions of Article 11.

Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I)

55. Notes the provisions of this Protocol.

Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) and Technical Annex to the Protocol

56. Notes the provisions of this Protocol.

Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996 (Amended Protocol II) and Technical Annex to the Protocol

[Text to be submitted by the 28th Annual Conference of Amended Protocol II.]

Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III)

57. Notes the provisions of this Protocol and calls for their full implementation by all High Contracting Parties to the Protocol.

58. Notes the concerns raised by a number of High Contracting Parties over reports of use of incendiary weapons against civilians and condemns any use of incendiary weapons against civilians or civilian objects, and any other use incompatible with relevant rules of International Humanitarian Law, including provisions of Protocol III where applicable.

59. Calls on all parties to armed conflicts to respect relevant rules of International Humanitarian Law, including provisions of Protocol III where applicable.

Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV)

60. Notes the provisions of this Protocol and welcomes that there has been no confirmed use of blinding laser weapons. It also reminds High Contracting Parties of the need to take all feasible precautions, in the use of laser systems, to avoid incidence of permanent blindness to unenhanced vision, as required by Article 2.

Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) and Technical Annex to the Protocol

[Text to be submitted by the 20th Annual Conference of Protocol V to the Seventh Review Conference.]