
**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**

2 September 2013

Original: English

2013 Session

Geneva, 14–15 November 2013

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of the report of the
CCW Sponsorship Programme**

**Report
Sponsorship programme**

Submitted by the Steering Committee of the sponsorship programme

Introduction

1. The CCW sponsorship programme was established by a decision of the High Contracting Parties during the Third Review Conference.¹ The goals of the sponsorship programme are to promote the universalization, implementation and respect of the Convention and its Protocols. Further, the programme aims to enhance cooperation, exchanges of information and consultations among High Contracting Parties.

2. At the Fourth Review Conference, High Contracting Parties requested the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) to agree on modalities for cooperation in managing and administering the CCW sponsorship programme.² High Contracting Parties also asked that a review of options for administering the sponsorship programme be undertaken.³ The modalities for managing the sponsorship programme and decision for GICHD to continue to administer the programme were set out in the 2012 Report of the CCW sponsorship programme.⁴

3. In the final report of the 2012 CCW Meeting of High Contracting Parties, the Meeting “expressed its appreciation for the report of the CCW sponsorship programme, the Guidelines on the administration of the programme and the continuing role of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining in administering the programme”.⁵ This report covers the sponsorship programme’s work for the 12 months beginning 1 October

¹ Decision 5 of the final document, CCW/CONF.III/11 and annex IV.

² Decision 3 and annex II of the final document, CCW/CONF.IV/4/Add.1, 15 December 2011.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ See annex III and paragraph 14 of the report of the Ccw sponsorship programme, CCW/MSP/2012/7, 14 September 2012.

⁵ Paragraph 30 of the final document, CCW/MSP/2012/9, 30 November 2012.

2012. Governing the work of the sponsorship programme is the Steering Committee, which is led by its Coordinator, Mr. Arturas Gailiunas. The programme is administered by the CCW Implementation Support Unit and the GICHD.

Activities of the CCW sponsorship programme

4. Since 1 October 2012, the sponsorship programme financed the attendance of:

(a) To attend the Sixth Conference of Protocol V, Fourteenth Conference of Amended Protocol II and 2012 CCW Meeting of High Contracting Parties: Belarus, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Montenegro, Philippines, Ukraine and Yemen.

(b) To attend the 2013 Amended Protocol II Group of Experts: Colombia, Nigeria.

(c) To attend both the 2013 Amended Protocol II Group of Experts and Protocol V Meeting of Experts: Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Montenegro, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Ukraine.

5. The attendance of sponsored delegates at the Amended Protocol II and Protocol V Meetings of Experts in 2013 was an opportunity to brief and discuss with them the background to and reasons for joining the CCW and its Protocols. During this year's APII and Protocol V Meetings of Experts, a lunchtime seminar was held for the sponsored delegates. This was led by the Coordinator of the Steering Committee and Chairperson-designate of the 2013 CCW Meeting of High Contracting Parties, Ambassador Jean-Hugues Simon-Michel. During the lunchtime seminar, the CCW Implementation Support Unit made a presentation on the Convention and its Protocols and how States could become party to the CCW. Also, the Coordinator and CCW Implementation Support Unit followed-up with individual sponsored delegates to speak to them about the prospects of their country joining the CCW. Following the Meetings of Experts, the Coordinator has written to each of the sponsored delegates to urge them to join the CCW and its Protocols. The Coordinator specifically asked the delegates to share information on the progress being made and steps taken within their country towards joining the CCW.

6. The sponsorship of delegates has facilitated the exchange of information and assisted in understanding the challenges being faced and progress made towards implementation of the CCW and its Protocols by different States and regions. The sponsored delegates that made presentations and interventions are set out below.

(a) **Sixth Conference of Protocol V:** General exchange of views and updates on universalization: Cuba, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Montenegro and Yemen.

(b) **Clearance:** Belarus, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Philippines and Yemen.

(c) **Cooperation and assistance:** Belarus.

(d) **Victim assistance:** Lao People's Democratic Republic

(e) **Fourteenth Conference of Amended Protocol II:** General exchange of views and updates on universalization: Cuba and Montenegro

(f) **CCW 2012 Meeting of High Contracting Parties:** Belarus, Cuba, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Philippines, Ukraine and Yemen.

(g) **Mines other than anti-personnel mines:** Belarus and Cuba.

- (h) **2013 Amended Protocol II Group of Experts:** Improvised explosive devices: Colombia, Indonesia, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Uganda.
- (i) **2013 Protocol V Meeting of Experts:** Universalization: Ghana.
- (j) **Clearance:** Belarus, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Ukraine
- (k) **Cooperation and assistance:** Lao People's Democratic Republic and Montenegro. Small group meeting for affected States and invited donor States: Belarus, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Montenegro, Sri Lanka and Ukraine.
- (l) Generic preventive measures: Albania.
- (m) **Victim assistance:** Albania, Colombia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Sri Lanka and Uganda.

7. Two challenges that have been identified this year in the management of the sponsorship programme are ensuring that sponsored delegates are provided with the necessary support to participate in the meeting or conference. While some delegates are very familiar with United Nations meetings, others may be attending their very first multilateral meeting and therefore will require additional support. In response to this issue, the CCW Implementation Support Unit in the future will seek to meet with sponsored delegates at the beginning of a meeting to brief them on the programme of work and where they might wish to intervene. The second issue is where sponsored delegates are absent from meetings and conferences. In the future, it is proposed to bring such absences to the attention of the concerned delegate's Permanent Mission in Geneva.

Work of the Steering Committee

8. The Steering Committee of the sponsorship programme has met three times in 2013. One of those meetings was an opportunity to discuss how to move forward on progressing universalization of the CCW and its Protocols. The Steering Committee tasked the CCW Implementation Support Unit with producing a booklet on the CCW including background to the Convention and its Protocols, how to join the regime and why States should join. The booklet is now available on the CCW's website. Also, the Implementation Support Unit was tasked to produce a list of States that are considered to be close to joining the CCW and therefore should be prioritised for sponsorship. This list has been circulated to members of the Steering Committee. Moving forward the Steering Committee will be looking to more closely link sponsorship to the potential of a particular country to join the CCW.

Financing of the CCW sponsorship programme

9. Since the 2012 Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention, the sponsorship programme has benefited from the financial contributions of the following States: Australia, China, France, Germany, Lithuania and Turkey. The financial accounts for the sponsorship programme will be issued as an addendum prior to the 2013 CCW Meeting of High Contracting Parties.

The administration of the CCW sponsorship programme

10. Since the agreement to the new modalities for managing and administering the sponsorship programme in 2012, the programme has been more efficiently organised. One issue that remains under review is the six weeks deadline for submission of voluntary applications and identification of candidates due to Switzerland's applying the Schengen

regulations concerning the issuance of visas. These visas increasingly require applicants to physically submit biometric data to a Swiss Consulate and Switzerland does not have such representation in all capitals. It remains an ongoing challenge to ensure that candidates for sponsorship organise their visas in time to attend CCW meetings and conferences.

Annex

