

# 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

4 December 2013

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**Geneva, 14–15 November 2013**

## **Summary record of the 4th meeting**

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Friday, 15 November 2013, at 3 p.m.

*Chairperson:* Mr. Simon-Michel.....(France)

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.45 p.m.*

**Organization of work, including that of any subsidiary body of the Meeting**  
(continued)

*Scheduling of 2014 meetings of subsidiary bodies*

1. **Mr. Sareva** (Director of the Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs) said that the secretariat was working under a number of constraints for the scheduling of the various meetings of subsidiary bodies in 2014. The Palais des Nations was undergoing renovation work and had already been heavily booked for a number of events that would take place in May and June 2014, including the International Labour Conference and the World Health Assembly. Consequently, the last week available for the organization of the meetings prior to the July and August break would be from 12 to 16 May 2013.

*Estimated costs of the 2014 meeting of experts*

2. **The Chairperson** said that in 2012 detailed talks had been held regarding the estimated costs of the conferences held for the Convention, amended Protocol II and Protocol V, and in the interests of transparency the secretariat had prepared a document presenting the estimated costs for the 2014 meeting of experts (CCW/MSP/2013/8). The final costs for the various conferences and meetings held in 2012 were included in the report of the Implementation Support Unit (CCW/MSP/2013/5). The costs for 2014 would be approved with the adoption by the Conference of paragraph 33 of its final document.

3. **Mr. Grinevich** (Belarus) said that the dates set for the meeting of experts in document CCW/MSP/2013/8 should be corrected so that they corresponded with the ones given in the draft final report.

4. **The Chairperson**, seeing no objections, said that he took it that the Conference wished to adopt document CCW/MSP/2013/8, as amended.

5. *It was so decided.*

**Consideration and adoption of the final report** (CCW/MSP/2013/CRP.1 and a non-paper circulated in the meeting room in English only)

6. **The Chairperson** drew attention to the draft final report of the Meeting (CCW/MSP/2013/CRP.1) and the non-paper containing the list of participants and invited the Conference to consider and adopt them chapter by chapter or, as necessary, paragraph by paragraph, before adopting the draft final report as a whole.

*Chapter I (Introduction)*

*Paragraphs 1–6*

7. *Paragraphs 1 to 6 were adopted.*

*Chapter II (Organization of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties)*

*Paragraphs 7–10*

8. **Mr. Animan** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that his country's name should be added to the list of participants as an observer, as it had taken part in the work of the Meeting.

9. *Paragraphs 7 to 10, as amended, were adopted.*

*Chapters III (Work of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties)**Paragraphs 11–22*

10. **The President** noted that Hungary should be deleted from the list in paragraph 21 of High Contracting Parties that had submitted national reports on compliance.

11. *Paragraphs 11 to 22, as amended, were adopted.*

*Chapter IV (Conclusions and recommendations)**Paragraphs 23–34*

12. *Paragraphs 23 to 34 were adopted.*

*Paragraph 35*

13. **Mr. Grinevich** (Belarus) said that the item on the provisional agenda for the 2014 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties entitled “Mines other than anti-personnel mines (MOTAPM)”, which appeared in annex I of the draft final report, should be deleted.

14. **Mr. Biontino** (Germany) said that Germany considered it important to continue discussions on the subject of MOTAPM. There were several problems with the proposal to take the subject off the provisional agenda for 2014. On purely formal grounds, removing an item proposed by the Chairperson would require some substantiation. In addition, the annex in question being merely the Chairperson’s proposal, it did not need formal approval; the prerogative for the formal adoption of the agenda would in any event lie with the 2014 session of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties. Lastly, the mandate for examining the issue of MOTAPM came from the Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties, and it was thus for the Review Conference to decide if and when the issue no longer needed to be examined. More important for the German delegation was a substantive consideration: to take the subject off the agenda was to ignore the fact that the issue fell squarely within the core of the humanitarian mandate of the Convention. The absence of a consensus on possible solutions or even on the procedure to be adopted was not in itself sufficient reason to halt all discussion. MOTAPM should be discussed under a separate agenda item. He opposed changing the provisional agenda.

15. **Mr. Jackson** (Ireland), **Mr. Meier** (United States of America), **Ms. Mouelhi-Rondeau** (Canada), **Mr. Masmajan** (Switzerland), **Ms. Koc** (Australia), **Mr. Levon** (Israel), **Mr. Mati** (Italy) and **Mr. Stockbridge** (United Kingdom) expressed their support for keeping MOTAPM as a separate item on the provisional agenda of the 2014 session of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties.

16. **Mr. Grinevich** (Belarus) said that the Fourth Review Conference had decided to convene a meeting of experts on MOTAPM in 2012 and to call for the submission of a report to the 2012 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties. At the meeting of experts, as at the current Meeting of the High Contracting Parties, it had become abundantly clear that there was no prospect for reaching agreement on the issue. Further discussions were pointless. It had most certainly not been the intention of the Fourth Review Conference that such discussions should continue for the entire five years until the next Review Conference. The removal of an agenda item that had no prospect for consensus would leave more time for consideration of lethal autonomous weapons systems, a completely new agenda item.

17. **Ms. Arredondo** (Cuba) invoked three arguments against including MOTAPM on the agenda for the 2014 session of the Meeting: the remote prospects for reaching consensus on the issue; the absence of any new findings or arguments that might justify a continuation of the discussions; and the fact that those delegations that wished to bring any

aspect of such mines before the Meeting would have ample opportunity to do so under the relevant items elsewhere on the agenda.

18. **Mr. Ji Haojun** (China) proposed moving the question of MOTAPM to agenda item 15 and renaming that agenda item “Other matters, including mines other than anti-personnel mines”. He also proposed amending the passage in brackets in the heading of annex I so that it would read “as recommended by the Chairperson of the 2013 Meeting ...”. The Meeting should also devote at least a portion of its attention to other even deadlier weapons currently being developed in various countries. For example, if cyberweapons were ever turned against a civilian nuclear power facility they could cause human suffering on an enormous scale. A new agenda item might address cyberweapons and other new weapons systems which could cause devastating humanitarian disasters.

19. **The Chairperson** suggested that the meeting be suspended briefly to allow interested delegations to carry out the necessary consultations.

*The meeting was suspended at 4.30 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.*

20. **The Chairperson** announced that some of the delegations had drawn up a proposal to modify annex 1 of the draft final report, replacing item 9 of the provisional agenda with a new item 9, entitled “Further issues relevant to the Convention, including mines other than anti-personnel mines (MOTAPM)”. Noting the absence of any further remarks, he took it that the annex as amended posed no further problems and asked the Meeting if the final report could be considered as adopted.

21. *It was so decided.*

#### **Closure of the Meeting**

22. **The Chairperson** expressed the hope that the work done by the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties would contribute to reducing some of the most worrying threats and mitigating some of the worst forms of human suffering caused by the use of certain conventional weapons in the course of armed conflicts.

*The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.*