

**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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**2009 Session**

**Geneva, 12 – 13 November 2009**

Item 8 of the Agenda

**Plan of Action to promote the universality of the  
Convention, including the implementation of the  
CCW Sponsorship Programme**

**REPORT ON THE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME  
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CONVENTION ON CERTAIN  
CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS**

Submitted by the Coordinator of the Steering Committee

Introduction

1. The Sponsorship Programme was established within the framework of the Convention pursuant to a decision by the Third Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention (Decision 5 of the Final Document, CCW/CONF.III/11 (Part II)). The details of that Decision, comprising the Sponsorship Programme's general principals, its basic goals, basic operational purposes and basic operational modalities, are further outlined in Annex IV of the Final Document. The current report covers the period from 1 November 2008 to 31 October 2009.

The Purpose of the Sponsorship Programme

2. The CCW Sponsorship Programme aims at:

- (i) strengthening the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols;
- (ii) promoting universal observance of the norms and principles enshrined therein;
- (iii) supporting the universalization; and
- (iv) enhancing the cooperation, the exchange of information and the consultations among the States parties on issues related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols.

3. According to its basic operational purposes, the Programme shall provide various forms of assistance, including but not limited to supporting the participation in activities related to the

Convention of the representatives of States, especially of States which are explosive remnants of war-affected and mine-affected that are the least-developed countries (LDC) or have limited resources, or States which are on the path towards accession to the Convention and its annexed Protocols, and States which are engaged in activities related to their own implementation of the Convention and its annexed Protocols. The Programme may also support the attendance of appropriate qualified experts with field experience or of scholars, particularly from the States referred to above, to prepare studies and/or presentations on certain topics of interest at relevant meetings or seminars.

#### The Sponsorship Programme's Steering Committee

4. Pursuant to the basic operational modalities set out in the Decision, an informal Steering Committee has been tasked to set operational modalities which have not been specified in the Decision and to ensure the guidance of the day-to-day implementation of the Sponsorship Programme. The Steering Committee members comprise representatives of donor States to this Programme and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). Aside from its members, representatives of the three Regional Groups and China, the President-designate of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties and representatives of UNMAS are invited to participate in its meetings as observers and advisors. Every State Party may also ask to be heard by the Committee. The administrative management of the Programme has been entrusted by the States Parties to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).

#### The Guidelines for the CCW Sponsorship Fund Administration

5. The Guidelines for the CCW Sponsorship Fund Administration were approved in 2007 by the Steering Committee (CCW/MSP/2007/4, Annex I). Paragraph 10 of the Guidelines has been amended to reflect the staffing changes at the GICHD. The latest version of the Guidelines is contained in Annex I.

#### Activities of the Sponsorship Programme

6. Since 1 November 2008 the Steering Committee has met four times in Geneva: on 9 January, 6 March, 9 June, and 30 September 2009. At its meeting on 9 June 2009, the Steering Committee appointed Mr. Pieter van Donkersgoed of the Netherlands as Coordinator, who succeeded Ambassador Edvardas Borisovas of Lithuania upon the termination of his assignment in Geneva. The Coordinator presides over the meetings of the Steering Committee.

7. The Steering Committee decided to carry out its tasks in an informal and flexible manner. The Committee had reached an understanding on the ways and means on how to make this possible, the principles of which are explained in detail in paragraph 7 of document CCW/MSP/2007/4.

8. The Steering Committee took all its decisions by consensus. The Decisions concern the operation of the Sponsorship Programme, including the granting of travel and daily subsistence allowances for participation in the activities related to the Convention, in accordance with the

basic goals and the operational purposes of the Sponsorship Programme. The Committee has always worked in support of the principle that voluntary requests for sponsorship from CCW States Parties or States not party would be seriously considered and would not be turned down unless the Programme faces severe financial constraints.

9. Aside from taking decisions on the people to be sponsored to participate in CCW meetings in Geneva, the Steering Committee is also presently discussing how to further improve the Sponsorship Programme and increase its efficiency as a useful tool to promote the universalization of the Convention and its implementation. In this regard, the Steering Committee agreed to fund a pilot project proposed by Hungary to produce a film on Protocol V and the Budapest Workshop on ERW Clearance, Removal and Destruction (29-30 June 2009), which would subsequently be disseminated as an outreach tool in the form of DVDs. The Steering Committee underscored that such a project would not be a precedent and would be kept under periodic evaluation.

#### The Donors

10. One of the general principles guiding the Programme is that contributions to the Programme are made on a voluntary basis.

11. Following the two letters by the Secretary-General of the CCW Third Review Conference of 23 February 2007 and the Coordinator of the Steering Committee of 22 September 2008, respectively, inviting the States Parties to the Convention to consider supporting financially the Sponsorship Programme, donations that have been received thus far originate from the following countries: Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, France, India, Lithuania, Netherlands, Spain, Turkey, and the European Commission. Switzerland, through its general contribution to the GICHD, is covering the expenses related to staff, office space and other support for the effective administration of the CCW Sponsorship Programme.

#### The Accounts (CHF)

12. From 1 November 2008 to 31 October 2009, the expenses amounted to 152'931. As at 31 October 2009 the remaining balance was 230'564. The details are contained in Annex I.

#### The Beneficiaries

13. The Steering Committee meets to discuss the implementation of the Sponsorship Programme. The Committee, *inter alia*, decides on State representatives or experts eligible to receive sponsorship to participate in CCW meetings in Geneva. The Committee strives to operate in a transparent way in deciding those that benefit from the Sponsorship Programme. Potential beneficiaries are based on the criteria established in the decision by the Third Review Conference. The Coordinator transmits letters of invitation to those States which fall under the category as outlined and agreed by the Steering Committee, inviting them to nominate their representatives to participate in the work of the meetings.

14. From 1 November 2008 to 31 October 2009, 42 delegates and experts have benefited from the Sponsorship Programme. The details are contained in Annex II.

### Conclusion

15. The success and efficiency of the Sponsorship Programme will greatly depend on the availability of funds as it is funded through voluntary contributions. Therefore, all States parties are invited to consider supporting the Programme financially.

16. The funds allocated to the Sponsorship Programme is subject to an audit by an external auditor and audit reports are sent to all members of the Committee, and made available upon request to any State Party by the United Nations. The 2008 audit report and the GICHD annual financial report on the Administration of the Sponsorship Programme (1 January to 31 December 2008) has been circulated to the members of the Steering Committee by the GICHD on 30 September 2009.

17. The 2009 audit report and the GICHD annual financial report on the Administration of the Sponsorship Programme (1 January to 31 December 2009) will be circulated by the GICHD to the members of the Steering Committee in 2010 following the completion of the audit.

18. The Sponsorship Programme and its basic operational modalities as well as its overall implementation, will be reviewed and assessed by the States Parties at the next CCW Review Conference in order to strengthen its effectiveness and efficiency for future activities.

## Annex I

### **Report by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) on the Administration of the CCW Sponsorship Programme from 1 November 2008 to 31 October 2009**

#### **Overview**

1. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) administered the Sponsorship Programme of 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 (CCW)*.
2. This programme has been administered upon the basis of the Guidelines for the CCW Sponsorship Fund Administration as approved by the Sponsorship Programme's Steering Committee on 29 June 2007 and subsequently modified on 18 September 2008.

#### **Activities**

3. The sponsorship package covered all travel costs (economy class, the most economical rate), hotel accommodation, and per diem. This report covers the meetings of CCW taking place in Geneva between 1 November 2008 and 31 October 2009.
4. The following donors have contributed to the CCW Sponsorship Programme between 1 November 2008 and 31 October 2009: Australia, the European Commission, India and the Netherlands. Switzerland, through its general contribution to the GICHD, is covering the expenses related to staff, office space and other support for the effective administration of the CCW Sponsorship Programme.

#### **ACCOUNTS (CHF)**

##### **Remaining Balance**

5. The CCW Sponsorship Programme Fund administered by the GICHD on behalf of the CCW Sponsorship Programme's Steering Committee shows a remaining balance of **CHF 230'564** as at 31 October 2009. Details of the account for 2007, 2008 and 2009 are as follows:

**Contributions**  
**2007**

	<b>CHF</b>
Australia	40'934
Canada	27'943
China	11'771
European Commission (EC)	156'082
India	10'829
Lithuania	10'000
Turkey	1'145
Bank interest	21
<b>Total contributions received in 2007</b>	<b>258'725</b>

**Expenses**  
**2007**

	<b>November</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Travel costs	38'820	38'820
Accommodation	38'916	38'916
Per diem	21'535	21'535
Bank charges	132	132
<b>Total</b>	<b>99'403</b>	<b>99'403</b>

**Remaining Balance**  
**2007**

	<b>CHF</b>
Contributions 2007	258'725
Expenses 2007	99'403
<b>Remaining balance 2007</b>	<b>159'322</b>

**Contributions**  
**2008**

	<b>CHF</b>
Australia	16'000
China	11'087
Denmark	42'025
European Commission (EC)	147'284
France	7'677
Netherlands	29'850
Spain	44'417
Turkey	997
Bank interest	85
<b>Total contributions received in 2008</b>	<b>299'422</b>

**Expenses  
2008**

	<b>April</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Travel costs	18'701	24'758	7'398	15'318	66'175
Accommodation	8'430	22'757	3'370	18'016	52'573
Per diem	5'800	11'955	1'670	9'605	29'030
Bank charges	-	-	-	-	99
<b>Total</b>	<b>32'931</b>	<b>59'470</b>	<b>12'438</b>	<b>42'939</b>	<b>147'877</b>

**Remaining Balance  
2008**

	<b>CHF</b>
Carry-over from 2007	159'322
Contributions 2008	299'422
Expenses 2008	147'877
<b>Remaining balance 2008</b>	<b>310'867</b>

**Contributions  
2009 (as at 31 October)**

	<b>CHF</b>
Australia	18'200
India	11'489
<b>Total contributions received in 2009</b>	<b>29'689</b>

**Expenses  
2009 (as at 31 October)**

	<b>February</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Travel costs	11'702	34'502	2'872	-	49'382
Accommodation	9'362	22'268	2'531	-	34'161
Per diem	5'575	14'445	1'330	-	21'350
Bank charges	-	-	139	-	139
Film production <sup>1</sup>	-	-	4'960	-	4'960
<b>Total</b>	<b>26'639</b>	<b>71'215</b>	<b>11'832</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>109'992</b>

**Remaining Balance  
2009 (as at 31 October)**

	<b>CHF</b>
Carry-over from 2008	310'867
Contributions 2009	29'689
Expenses 2009	109'992
<b>Remaining balance as at 31 October 2009</b>	<b>230'564</b>

<sup>1</sup> Production of a DVD on the "Budapest Workshop on ERW Clearance, Removal and Destruction" organized by the Government of Hungary on 29 – 30 June 2009.

6. The 2009 accounts of the CCW Sponsorship Programme fund will be subject to an audit carried out by an independent auditor (Pricewaterhouse Coopers) in 2010.



## Annex II

### **Beneficiaries of the CCW Sponsorship Programme**

The following lists the beneficiaries that were invited and funded by the Sponsorship Programme and those that actually participated in CCW meetings in November 2008, February 2009, April 2009, and August 2009.

1. CCW GGE Fifth 2008 Session (3–7 November 2008); Second Conference of Protocol V (10–11 November 2008); Tenth Annual Conference of Amended Protocol II (12 November 2008); and Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to CCW (13–14 November 2008)

The Steering Committee decided to invite 14 States, but only three responded in time and sponsored: **Iraq, Lebanon, and Mozambique** (States not parties). Six individual voluntary requests were received from: **Benin, Cuba, Cameroon, Morocco, Peru, and Senegal**. The participation of the Friend of the Chair on Victim Assistance, Ms. Anesa Kundurovic of **Bosnia and Herzegovina** at the request of the CCW GGE Chairperson was also funded by the Programme. A total of 10 people were sponsored.

2. CCW Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) First 2009 Session (16–20 February 2009)

The Steering Committee invited six States: (1) Benin, Cambodia and Lao PDR (States parties); (2) Burundi, Iraq and Mozambique (States not party). Four individual voluntary requests were received from: Afghanistan, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, and Peru. The Steering Committee also received a request by the GGE Chairperson to sponsor the Friend of the Chair on Victim Assistance (Bosnia and Herzegovina). Finally, eight people were sponsored: **Afghanistan, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Lao PDR, Mozambique, and Peru**.

3. CCW GGE Second 2009 Session (14–17 April 2009); CCW APII Group of Experts (20 – 21 April 2009) and CCW Protocol V Meeting of Experts (22 – 24 April 2009)

The Steering Committee invited two States: Benin (State party) and Mozambique (State not party). Furthermore, the office holders under the APII Group of Experts and the Protocol V Meeting of Experts invited experts. Finally, 22 people from 19 States were sponsored: **Afghanistan, Albania, Belarus, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina (three people), Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, El Salvador, Georgia, Lao PDR, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Slovakia, Tajikistan (2 people), Togo, Uganda, United Kingdom, Ukraine**. The details are as follows:

No.	State	Invited by	CCW Meeting
1.	Benin (Government rep.)	Steering Committee	GGE, APII, PV
2.	Bosnia & Herzegovina (FOC-VA)	GGE Chairperson	GGE, APII, PV
3.	Cote d'Ivoire (Government rep.)	Steering Committee	GGE, APII, PV
4.	United Kingdom (Expert)	FOC on IED	APII
5.	Peru (Government rep.)	Steering Committee	GGE
6.	Cuba (Government rep.)	Steering Committee	GGE
7.	Togo (Government rep.)	Steering Committee	APII, PV
8.	Ukraine (Government rep.)	Steering Committee	APII, PV
9.	Afghanistan (Expert)	Coordinator, Victim Assistance	PV
10.	Albania (Expert)	Coordinator, Victim Assistance	PV
11.	Belarus (Expert)	Coordinator, Clearance	PV
12.	Bosnia and Herzegovina (Expert)	Coordinator, Clearance	PV
13.	Bosnia and Herzegovina (Expert)	Coordinator, Victim Assistance	PV
14.	El Salvador (Expert)	Coordinator, Victim Assistance	PV
15.	Georgia (Expert)	Coordinator, Clearance	PV
16.	Lao PDR (Expert)	Coordinator, Clearance	PV
17.	Nicaragua (Expert)	Coordinator, Clearance	PV
18.	Senegal (Expert)	Coordinator, Clearance	PV
19.	Slovakia (Expert)	Coordinator, National Reporting	PV
20.	Tajikistan (Expert)	Coordinator, Clearance	PV
21.	Tajikistan (Expert)	Coordinator, Victim Assistance	PV
22.	Uganda (Expert)	Coordinator, Victim Assistance	PV

#### 4. CCW GGE Informal Session (17–21 August 2009)

Due to the informal nature of the meeting, at the request of the Chairperson of the GGE the Steering Committee decided to sponsor two office holders: the Chairperson of the Meetings of Military and Technical Experts, Capt. Roberto Carlos Juarez (**Argentina**), and the Friend of the Chair on Victim Assistance (**Bosnia and Herzegovina**).