

**Fourth Review Conference 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**

30 September 2011

Original: English

---

**Geneva, 14–25 November 2011**

Item 11 of the provisional agenda

**Review of the scope and operation of the Convention and its annexed Protocols**

**Report of the CCW Sponsorship Programme<sup>1</sup>**

**Submitted by the Steering Committee of the Sponsorship Programme**

**A. Introduction**

1. The CCW Sponsorship Programme was established by a decision of the States Parties during the Third Review Conference (Decision 5 of the Final Document, CCW/CONF.III/11 and Annex IV). That Decision sets out the Sponsorship Programme's general principles, basic goals, basic operational purposes and basic operational modalities.
2. The goals of the CCW Sponsorship Programme were to promote the universalization, implementation and respect of the Convention and its Protocols. Also, the Programme was to enhance cooperation, the exchange of information and consultation among States Parties. The Programme's Steering Committee has been guiding the implementation of the Sponsorship Programme. The administrative management of the Sponsorship Programme is entrusted to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).
3. This report reviews the work of the Sponsorship Programme, including the Steering Committee, since its establishment and proposes recommendations for consideration by States Parties at the Fourth Review Conference.

**B. The Purpose of the Sponsorship Programme**

4. According to its basic operational purposes, the Programme shall:
  - Support the participation of States Parties in Convention related activities, especially States Parties which are Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and mine-

---

<sup>1</sup> Past annual reports of the CCW Sponsorship Programme covered the period from 1 November of the previous year to 31 October of the current year. However, as it was necessary to submit the present report early for translation the period of reporting covered here is from 1 November 2007 to 1 September 2011.

affected and have limited resources. Priority is given to least developed countries (LDCs);

- Provide Signatory States and non-State Parties with an opportunity to participate in activities related to the Convention and therefore become acquainted with its work. Preference should be given to States that are LDCs, those that are on the path to accession to the Convention and its Protocols, and those that are engaged in activities related to their own implementation of the Convention and its Protocols;
- Support the attendance of qualified experts with field experience or scholars, particularly from the States referred to in the first bullet point above, to prepare studies and/or presentations on certain topics of interest at relevant meetings or seminars; and
- Provide other related forms of assistance that might be deemed appropriate by the States Parties.<sup>2</sup>

## **C. The Steering Committee**

5. The Steering Committee was established after consultations carried out by the President of the Third Review Conference. The Steering Committee's membership consists of representatives of donor States Parties to the Programme, GICHD and the CCW Secretariat. Invited to the Steering Committee meeting were the representatives of the Regional Groups and China, Chairperson of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, President of the Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II (APII), President of the Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). In addition, each State Party may request to be heard by the Committee.

6. The Steering Committee's work has been led by a Coordinator. From June 2007 to March 2009, the Coordinator was Ambassador Edvardas Borisovas of Lithuania. Subsequently, the Committee appointed Mr. Pieter van Donkersgoed of the Netherlands, who serves as the current Coordinator.

7. The Steering Committee has met regularly<sup>3</sup> to discuss and take decisions on the operation of the Sponsorship Programme. The Committee has operated in a transparent, informal and flexible manner.

8. The Steering Committee has submitted a written report on its activities annually to the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention.

## **D. Contributions to the Sponsorship Programme**

9. The two key tasks of the Steering Committee have been seeking donations from States Parties for the funding of the Sponsorship Programme and identifying potential participants and projects for sponsorship. On seeking contributions, a general principle of the Programme is that contributions would be made on a voluntary basis. In 2007, the Secretary-General of the Third Review Conference sent letters to invite States Parties to

---

<sup>2</sup> CCW/CONF.III/11 (Part II), Annex IV, paragraph 4

<sup>3</sup> In 2007 (16 May, 29 June, 28 September); in 2008 (11 February, 15 May, 17 July, 18 September); in 2009 (9 January, 6 March, 9 June, 30 September, 24 November); in 2010 (15 March, 1 July, 29 September), and in 2011 (14 March, 9 June, 6 September)

contribute to the Programme. Since then the Coordinator of the Steering Committee each year has sent similar letters to the States Parties and called for contributions as part of the presentation of the Sponsorship Programme's annual report.

10. States Parties which have contributed financially to the Sponsorship Programme are: Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Hungary, India, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Spain, Turkey and the European Commission. Switzerland, through its general contribution to the GICHD, covered the costs of the administration of the Sponsorship Programme (cf. chapter on the administration of the Sponsorship Programme).

11. Since its establishment and as at 1 September 2011, the Sponsorship Programme received contributions totalling CHF 699'937.

## **E. Participants and other projects funded by the Sponsorship Programme**

12. Identifying potential participants has been a major component of the Steering Committee's work. Potential beneficiaries were selected on the basis of the criteria established by the Third Review Conference Decision. The Coordinator each year has sent letters to identified countries inviting them to nominate representatives or experts to participate in CCW meetings. In 2008, the Steering Committee received numerous voluntary requests for sponsorship. The Committee took the decision that all voluntary requests for sponsorship from States Parties or non-States Parties would be considered seriously and not turned down unless the Programme faced financial constraints.

13. From 1 November 2007 to 1 September 2011, 145 delegates and experts have benefited from the Sponsorship Programme. The beneficiaries were from the following countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Liberia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malawi, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Niger, Peru, Philippines, Samoa, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Viet Nam, and Zambia. The Sponsorship Programme therefore ensured widespread representation at the CCW meetings.

14. The Sponsorship Programme also supported the attendance of experts and office holders at CCW meetings. The Programme has been successful in ensuring the participation of experts in the Protocol V and AP II expert meetings, who made substantive presentations and contributed to the overall outcomes of the expert level meetings.

15. In 2009, the Steering Committee agreed to fund the production of a film on Protocol V and a Workshop on ERW Clearance, Removal and Destruction (Budapest, 29 – 30 June 2009). The film, entitled 'Before the Blast' and directed by Mr. Gyula Somogyi of Hungary, provided detailed information on the key elements of Protocol V. It was a useful tool for policy makers, military personnel and diplomats. The film was subsequently disseminated as an outreach tool in the form of a DVD and can be viewed on YouTube and the United Nations' website. The Steering Committee underscored that this was a pilot project and did not set a precedent in terms of how the Sponsorship Programme's funds could be utilised.

## **F. Briefings for the Beneficiaries of the Sponsorship Programme**

16. During most CCW meetings, the Coordinator of the Steering Committee organized informal lunchtime briefings for all the beneficiaries. Members of the Steering Committee were also invited to participate. The briefings were an important educational tool. Beneficiaries were provided with information on the CCW and its Protocols' objectives, or universalization and implementation. In addition, the briefings enabled the Committee to obtain feedback from the beneficiaries on issues related to treaty implementation and the problems they faced in fulfilling the CCW and its Protocols' obligations. Discussions ranged from the logistical aspects of the Sponsorship Programme, including ideas on how to better assist the beneficiaries in the future, to the scale of ERW and landmine problems faced by States.

17. In addition, the beneficiaries were requested to provide feedback by filling out a questionnaire. This feedback has provided useful ideas. For example, one beneficiary recommended that States Parties further developed plans of action for universalization of the Convention and its Protocols. The beneficiary argued that instead of only organizing seminars or circulating *notes verbales* inviting non-State Parties to accede to the Convention, States Parties should meet personally with the political leaders of non-State Parties to explain the benefits and advantages of CCW accession. Universalization of the Convention would be greatly facilitated by personal contacts rather than only through postal correspondence.

## **G. The modalities of the Sponsorship Programme**

18. During the Steering Committee's discussions, the modalities of the Sponsorship Programme have been kept under review. Significant discussions on modalities took place in 2007 when the Sponsorship Programme was first established and then again in 2009 after the Programme had sponsored the 'Before the Blast' DVD and the global financial crisis was impacting on CCW activities. The main points from the discussions in 2009 were recorded by the Coordinator in a food-for-thought paper. While some members felt the need for clearer guidance and criteria for identifying beneficiaries, overall the consensus was in favour of the status quo and taking an open and flexible approach. The key conclusions from those discussions are set out below.

19. While taking into account the Decision of the Third Review Conference on the Sponsorship Programme, the identification of potential beneficiaries should take into consideration:

- An assessment of the State Party's contribution to the CCW. For a non-State Party, an assessment of the likelihood of its joining the CCW.
- The candidates' ability to influence national decisions on universalization, use of conventional weapons and demining.

20. The following conditions were proposed by the Steering Committee and became a part of the regular practise concerning beneficiaries' participation in CCW meetings:

- Non-States Parties should make a statement on the status of their accession process. States Parties should be willing to comply with the standard reporting obligations, and provide information on the implementation of the CCW under the Decision on Compliance.
- Participants are required to provide feedback on their experience in the Sponsorship Programme and with the CCW and its Protocols.

21. In line with the direction that the Sponsorship Programme is to support the “basic operational purposes” (“to provide other related forms of assistance that might be deemed appropriate by the States Parties;”), the following suggestions have been made to the Steering Committee and continue to be discussed:

- Sponsoring national experts to attend outreach seminars or workshops that are not directly mandated by the CCW States parties, but have relevance to the Convention and its Protocols;
- Sponsoring the production of films, DVDs or other CCW-promoting activities;
- Sponsoring a universalization consultant or an independent expert; and
- Developing the Sponsorship Programme into a wider ranging “CCW Support Fund”.

22. The Coordinator urged contributing States Parties to ensure that any earmarking of funds should not contradict the objectives of the Sponsorship Programme.

## **H. The Accounts**

23. As at 1 September 2011 the remaining balance was CHF 181'653. The detailed accounts from 1 November 2007 to 1 September 2011 are contained in the Annex.

24. The funds allocated to the Sponsorship Programme are subject to an annual audit by an external auditor and audit reports were sent to all members of the Steering Committee, and made available upon request to any State Party. The audit reports and the GICHD annual financial report on the Administration of the Sponsorship Programme have continually been issued to the members of the Steering Committee.

## **I. The Administration of the Sponsorship Programme**

25. The GICHD has been entrusted with the technical management of the Sponsorship Programme. The GICHD has provided travel and accommodation services (flights and hotel booking, distribution of per diem, support for visa) for the beneficiaries and managed the accounts of the Sponsorship Programme. Narrative and financial reports were submitted by the GICHD to the Steering Committee after the conclusion of each sponsored CCW-related event. In addition, the GICHD submitted annual reports to the Steering Committee along with the audit reports.

26. Costs associated with the technical management of the Sponsorship Programme are estimated, on average, to be CHF 35'000 per year. This is approximately CHF 1'000 per beneficiary who attended the meetings and includes efforts related to the cancellation of travels due to delays outside of the control of the GICHD.

## **J. Conclusions and recommendations**

27. The States Parties welcome the efforts of the Steering Committee of the Sponsorship Programme in implementing the Programme's basic operational modalities, sponsoring the attendance of 145 beneficiaries from 50 countries and educational tools, thus contributing to the universalization, implementation and respect of the Convention and its Protocols.

28. The States Parties express appreciation that the Sponsorship Programme has ensured widespread representation and increased technical expertise at CCW meetings and made an important contribution to raising awareness of the Convention and its Protocols.

29. The States Parties recognize that the ongoing work of the Sponsorship Programme depends on voluntary contributions. Therefore, all States Parties are invited to support the Programme financially.

30. The States Parties thank the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining for administering the Sponsorship Programme.

31. It is recommended that the Fourth Review Conference takes the following decisions:

(a) To call on the Sponsorship Programme to continue to adhere to the general principles, basic goals, basic operational purposes and basic operational modalities established in Decision 5 of the Third Review Conference.

(b) To urge the Sponsorship Programme to explore all opportunities to advance awareness raising, universalization and implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

(c) To encourage the Steering Committee of the Sponsorship Programme to be efficient and pro-active in its work.

(d) To ask the GICHD to continue to administer the Sponsorship Programme, based on an agreement between the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the GICHD, specifying the modalities of co-operation;

(e) To task UNODA to assess alternative ways of administering the Sponsorship Programme, including by the CCW Implementation Support Unit (ISU), and to submit a report to the States Parties at the CCW Meeting of the High Contracting Parties in 2012, with recommendations for the administration of the Sponsorship Programme.

## Annex

### The Accounts

#### Report on the Administration of the CCW Sponsorship Programme from 1 November 2007 to 1 September 2011

1. The CCW Sponsorship Programme Fund administered by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) on behalf of the CCW Sponsorship Programme's Steering Committee shows a remaining balance of CHF 181'653 as at 1 September 2011. Details of the account for 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 are as follows:

#### Revenues 2007

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount (CHF)</i>
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
Total revenues in 2007	258'725

#### Expenses 2007

<i>Item</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>Amount (CHF)</i>
Travel costs	38'820	38'820
Accommodation	38'916	38'916
Per diem	21'535	21'535
Bank charges		132
Total	99'382	99'403

#### Remaining balance 2007

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (CHF)</i>
Revenues 2007	258'725
Expenses 2007	99'403
Remaining balance 2007	159'322

**Revenues 2008**

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount (CHF)</i>
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
Total revenues in 2008	299'422

**Expenses 2008**

<i>Item</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>Amount (CHF)</i>
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
Total	32'931	59'470	12'438	42'939	147'877

**Remaining balance 2008**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (CHF)</i>
Carry-over from 2007	159'322
Revenues 2008	299'422
Expenses 2008	147'877
Remaining balance 2008	310'867



**Revenues 2009**

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount (CHF)</i>
Australia	18'200
China	10'378
France	22'687
India	11'489
Bank interest	284
Total revenues in 2009	63'038

**Expenses 2009**

<i>Item</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>Amount (CHF)</i>
Travel costs	12'152	34'378	2'872	26'464	75'866
Accommodation	9'363	22'267	2'441	18'787	52'858
Per diem	5'575	14'445	1'330	10'180	31'530
Lunchtime events	-	-	-	1'619	1'619
Film production <sup>4</sup>	-	-	4'960	-	4'960
Bank charges	-	-	-	22	22
Total	27'090	71'090	11'603	57'072	167'138

**Remaining balance 2009**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (CHF)</i>
Carry-over from 2008	310'867
Revenues 2009	63'038
Expenses 2009	167'138
Remaining balance 2009	206'767

---

<sup>4</sup> DVD production "Before the Blast" by Hungary

**Revenues 2010**

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount (CHF)</i>
Australia	18'000
China	9'633
European Commission (EC)	22'079
Netherlands <sup>5</sup>	-6'215
Turkey	1'058
Bank interest	130
Total revenues in 2010	44'685

**Expenses 2010**

<i>Item</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>June/July</i>	<i>August/September</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>Amount (CHF)</i>
Travel costs	13'374	751	4'293	8'334	26'752
Accommodation	11'284	1'157	5'616	6'689	24'787
Per diem	7'602	665	2'845	4'160	15'272
Film production <sup>6</sup>	-	-	2'434	-	2'434
Bank charges	-	-	-	-	282
Total	32'260	2'573	15'188	19'183	69'527

**Remaining balance 2010**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (CHF)</i>
Carry-over from 2009	206'767
Revenues 2010	44'685
Expenses 2010	69'527
Remaining balance 2010	181'925

2. The 2010 accounts of the CCW Sponsorship Programme fund were subject to an audit carried out by an independent auditor (Deloitte) in 2011.

<sup>5</sup> An expected income from the Netherlands of EUR 20'000 was accounted in 2008 but the amount was subsequently reduced to EUR 16'000.

<sup>6</sup> Second invoice for the DVD production titled "Before the Blast" by Hungary.

**Revenues 2011 (as at 1 September 2011)**

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount (CHF)</i>
Australia	15'340
Hungary	18'727
Total revenues in 2011 (provisional)	34'067

**Expenses 2011 (as at 1 September 2011)**

<i>Item</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March/April</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>Amount (CHF)</i>
Travel costs	2'073	11'232	458	-	
Accommodation	2'159	9'154	1'097	-	
Per diem	1'330	5'780	665	-	
Lunchtime briefing		391			
Bank charges	-	-	-	-	
Total	5'562	26'557	2'220	-	34'339

**Remaining balance 2011 (as at 1 September 2011)**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (CHF)</i>
Carry-over from 2010	181'925
Revenues 2011	34'067
Expenses 2011	34'339
Remaining balance 2011	181'653

3. The 2011 accounts of the CCW Sponsorship Programme fund will be subject to an audit carried out by an independent auditor (Deloitte) in 2012.