

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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Consideration of the report of the CCW Sponsorship Programme

Report of the CCW Sponsorship Programme

Submitted by the Steering Committee of the Sponsorship Programme

A. Introduction

1. The CCW Sponsorship Programme was established by a decision of the High Contracting Parties at the Third Review Conference.¹ The goals of the Sponsorship Programme are to strengthen the implementation of and respect for the Convention and its Protocols, and to promote its universalization. The Programme also aims to enhance cooperation, exchanges of information and consultations among the High Contracting Parties.

2. In the final report of the 2014 Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention, the Meeting “expressed its appreciation for the report of the CCW Sponsorship Programme and the work of its Steering Committee”.² The Meeting recognized the value and importance of the Sponsorship Programme for promoting universalization and strengthening the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. The Meeting called upon those States in a position to do so to contribute to the Sponsorship Programme. This report covers the work of the Sponsorship Programme for the 12 months beginning 1 October 2014. Leading the work of the Sponsorship Programme is the Steering Committee, which is chaired by its Coordinator, Ms. Marketa Homolkova. The programme is administered by the CCW Implementation Support Unit and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).

B. Activities of the CCW Sponsorship Programme

3. Since 1 October 2014, the Sponsorship Programme financed the attendance of one representative of the following States:

¹ Decision 5 of the final document, CCW/CONF.III/11 and annex IV, 7-17 November 2006.

² Paragraph 31 of the final document, CCW/MSP/2014/9, 27 November 2014.



(a) to attend the 2014 Eighth Conference on Protocol V, Sixteenth Annual Conference on Amended Protocol II, and the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention (10–14 November 2014): Montenegro and the Philippines; and

(b) to attend the 2015 meetings of experts on Amended Protocol II and Protocol V (7–10 April 2015): Afghanistan, Cambodia, Latvia, Mali; on Amended Protocol II (9–10 April 2015): action on armed violence; on Amended Protocol II, Protocol V and on lethal autonomous weapons systems (7–17 April 2015): Ghana, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Ukraine; on lethal autonomous weapons systems (15–17 April 2015): centre for land warfare studies.

4. The attendance of sponsored delegates at the meetings mentioned above was a good opportunity to brief and discuss with them the background to, reasons for joining the CCW and its Protocols, and issues concerning implementation. During these meetings, the Sponsorship Programme organized breakfast or lunchtime briefings at which each sponsored delegate was requested to share information on the prospects of their country joining the CCW or highlight any challenges concerning implementation. In addition, the Implementation Support Unit has met with sponsored delegates at the beginning of the meetings to brief them on the programme of work and where they might be willing to make an intervention.

C. Work of the Steering Committee

5. The Steering Committee of the Sponsorship Programme has met twice in 2015.³ The major issue for the Committee were the discussions on which States would be prioritized to receive sponsorship at future CCW conferences. Preference is given to beneficiaries originating from a specific region where adherence to the Convention remains low and the potential of a particular State to join the CCW. Given that the balance of funds has been decreasing, the Committee discussed the financial situation of the Programme. The Coordinator's proposal on fund-raising actions were agreed by the Committee, which involved the dispatch of letters by the Coordinator to States Parties to encourage further donations, while seeking confirmation from previous donors to continue to make a contribution as the Programme is entirely financed on a voluntary basis. The Coordinator also took the initiative to approach States Parties individually and engage in a dialogue to help overcome the deficiency of funds.

D. Financing of the CCW Sponsorship Programme

6. Since the 2014 Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention, the Sponsorship Programme has benefitted from the financial contributions of the following States: Australia, China, Finland, France and Turkey. The financial accounts for the Sponsorship Programme will be issued as an addendum to this report prior to the 2015 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention.

³ The meetings of the Steering Committee were held in Geneva on 3 February and 25 September 2015.