

**GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS OF  
THE STATES 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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**Thirteenth Session**  
**Geneva, 6-10 March 2006**  
Item 11 of the Provisional Agenda  
**Sponsorship programme**

**SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME UNDER THE CONVENTION**

Presented by the President-designate

**I. Introduction**

1. In accordance with the decision taken by the 2005 Meeting of the States 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 (CCW) as stipulated in paragraph 33 of document CCW/MSP/2005/2, dated 14 February 2006, “the President-designate shall undertake consultations during the intersessional period on the possibility to establish a sponsorship programme under the Convention and on the modalities of such a sponsorship programme, and shall report to the States Parties.”

**II. Background**

2. Since the Second Review Conference in 2001, some States Parties and international agencies have informally voiced their concern that the representatives of many States, especially from the developing and the least developed countries, are not regularly attending or are not attending at all CCW-related activities because it is financially burdensome for States with limited resources. Many of the latter are mine- and ERW-affected States and it was felt that providing them with an opportunity to share their views, experience and expertise would be beneficial for the CCW process. Against this background, the CCW Bureau initiated in 2005 informal consultations with several States Parties and the regional groups on whether a Sponsorship programme to help mine- and ERW-affected States Parties participate in CCW-related meetings could be established under the CCW and how such a programme could be organized.

3. The informal consultations have shown that there was broad understanding on the necessity of establishing such a Sponsorship programme to cover the costs of representatives of States Parties and other States that normally would not be able to attend sessions of the Group of

Governmental Experts, the Meetings of the States Parties, Review Conferences the Annual Conferences of the States Parties to Amended Protocol II, the Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V and other possible CCW meetings in Geneva. This is not only seen as a possible solution to ensure widespread participation in the CCW work, but also as an additional tool for promoting the universality of the Convention and its Protocols. Following the relevant recommendation, the issue of the establishment of a Sponsorship programme under CCW was included as a mandate for the Group of Governmental Experts in 2006.

### **III. Underlying principles**

4. Given the small size of the sponsorship programme, which is being considered, it seems appropriate to avoid setting up a mechanism, which is too complicated. Management costs should be, to the extent possible, reduced to a minimum or even negated altogether. The United Nations and the States Parties should be appropriately involved.

### **IV. Follow up**

5. On the basis of a first round of discussions, a more operational document will be submitted for the consideration of delegations during the second working session under this agenda item. This paper will be submitted under the personal responsibility of the President-designate of the Third Review Conference of the States Parties to the CCW to be held in Geneva from 7 to 17 November 2006. It will be a modest attempt to recollect the proposals and ideas discussed during consultations and to present them in a structured manner. Accordingly, its purpose is to provide a basis and to facilitate the discussion on the issue of the establishment of a sponsorship programme under the Convention at the Thirteenth Session of the Group of Governmental Experts. This paper will not preclude anything.

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