

**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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Item 11 of the Agenda
Sponsorship Programme

**SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME UNDER THE CONVENTION
A POSSIBLE OPERATIONAL WAY FORWARD**

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. A first round of exchange of views took place during the plenary meetings on 7 and 9 March on the basis of the paper presented by the President-designate under the reference CCW/GGE/XIII/6 dated 3 March 2006. During these two meetings, presentations were also made by the GICHD and UNMAS.

III. Results of the consultations

3. On the basis of views expressed during both plenary meetings and informal consultations, and of the proposals received on possible ways to establish a Sponsorship Programme under the CCW, the following assessment can be made:

- Although a few delegations expressed concerns about the need for and the appropriateness of such a programme hence reserved their position until the programme's modalities and purposes are clarified, no delegation rejected the principle of establishing such a programme;
- Although some questions that were raised will need to be addressed as the discussion proceeds, the following general ideas on the purpose and possible modalities of such a programme seems to have attracted the interest of many delegations at this stage of the discussion:
 - (a) Basic goals of a Sponsorship Programme :
 - (i) To strengthen the implementation of the Convention and its annexed Protocols among the States Parties;
 - (ii) To promote universal observance of the norms and principles enshrined in the Convention and its annexed Protocols;
 - (iii) To support the universalization of the Convention and its annexed Protocols;
 - (iv) To enhance the cooperation, the exchange of information and the consultations among the States Parties on the issues related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols;
 - (v) Not to encourage the institutionalisation of future CCW meetings.
 - (b) Operational purposes of a Sponsorship Programme :
 - (i) To support the participation of the representatives of States Parties, especially from ERW- and mine-affected States that have limited resources, to participate in the CCW activities. Preference should be given to States Parties which, according to the United Nations, have the world's least developed economies;
 - (ii) To provide Signatory States and States not yet parties to the Convention and its Protocols with an opportunity to participate in the CCW activities and to acquire an impression on the work related to the Convention. Preference should be given to 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 Protocols;
 - (iii) To support the attendance of qualified speakers with field experience or of scholars to prepare studies and/or present on certain topics of interest at relevant meetings or seminars;
 - (iv) To provide other forms of assistance, that might be deemed appropriate by the States Parties.
 - (c) Operational modalities of a Sponsorship programme:
 - (i) Contributions to the programme would be made on a voluntary basis. Given the expected limited size of the programme which is being considered, it seems appropriate to avoid setting up a mechanism which is too complicated. Management costs should be reduced to a minimum or even negated altogether.

- (ii) The States Parties would ask the Secretariat of the CCW to entrust the appropriate Geneva-based operator with the technical management of the programme, at no cost for the CCW community of States Parties.
- (iii) The programme would be administered by this appropriate operator according to the above -mentioned principles. The day-to-day implementation of the programme would be conducted under the guidance of a Steering Committee. This Steering Committee would include representatives from donor States, the UNDDA and UNMAS, and the President-designate of the CCW (of a future or, if none, a previous meeting). Representatives of the three Regional Groups, and China, would be invited to participate as observers.

IV. The way forward

4. The President-designate intends to consult on the feasibility of the scheme outlined in Section III, (c) above and, if such a mechanism proves to be workable, to elaborate on this basis a more precise proposal on a possible CCW Sponsorship Programme for consideration at the next session of the GGE.
