

**GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS 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**

CCW/GGE/2008-IV/2
17 September 2008

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**2008, Fourth Session
Geneva, 1-5 September 2008**

PROCEDURAL REPORT

Submitted by the Secretariat

1. The 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 (CCW) held at Geneva from 7 to 13 November 2007 decided, as contained in paragraph 37 of its Report (CCW/MSP/2007/5), that:

“The Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) will negotiate a proposal to address urgently the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, while striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations.

The GGE should make every effort to negotiate this proposal as rapidly as possible and report on the progress made to the next Meeting of the High Contracting Parties in November 2008.

The work of the GGE will be supported by military and technical experts. The GGE will meet in 2008 not less than three times for a total of up to seven weeks, as follows:

- 14 – 18 January
- 7 – 31 July
- 1 – 5 September
- 3 – 7 November

The Chairperson of the GGE, in consultation with the regional groups, shall decide on the duration of the second and the third sessions of the Group of Governmental Experts.”

2. Pursuant to the relevant decision of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to appoint “a representative of the Western European and Others Group as Chairperson of the Group of Governmental Experts” as contained in paragraph 41 of its Report (document CCW/MSP/2007/5), the Group of Governmental Experts was chaired by Ambassador Bent Wigotski of Denmark.

3. Pursuant to the relevant decision of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties, the Chairperson of the Group of Governmental Experts in consultation with the regional groups decided at its first 2008 session that an additional second 2008 session of the Group of Governmental Experts would be held from 7 to 11 April 2008, as contained in paragraph 17 of its Procedural Report (CCW/GGE/2008-I/3).
4. The fourth 2008 session of the Group of Governmental Experts was held at Geneva from 1 to 5 September 2008.
5. The following States Parties to the Convention participated in the work of the Group: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
6. The following Signatory State to the Convention also participated in the work of the Group: Egypt.
7. The following States not parties to the Convention participated as observers: Angola, Azerbaijan, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritania, Nepal, Oman, Qatar, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, and Zambia.
8. The representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) took part in the work of the Group.
9. The representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) took part in the work of the Group. The representatives of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the European Commission also participated in the work of the Group.
10. The representatives of the following non-governmental organisations took part in the work of the Group: Cluster Munition Coalition, Handicap International, Human Rights Watch, International Campaign to Ban Landmines, International Peace Bureau, Landmine Action, Landmine Survivors Network, and Norwegian People's Aid.
11. On 1 September 2008, the session was opened by the Chairperson, Ambassador Bent Wigotski of Denmark. He was assisted by Maj. Gen. Lars C. Fynbo of Denmark as Chairperson of the Meetings of the Military and Technical Experts (MMTE); Ms. Angela Robinson of Australia as Friend of the Chair (FOC) on Cooperation and Assistance; Ms. Anesa Kundurovic

of Bosnia and Herzegovina as FOC on Victim Assistance; Mr. Julio Fontes Laranjeira of Brazil as FOC on Storage and Destruction and on Transfers, Lt. Col. Jim Burke of Ireland as FOC on Definitions; Mr. Ryuichi Hirano of Japan as FOC on Protection of civilians, civilian population, and civilian objects. Mr. Peter Kolarov, Political Affairs Officer, Office for Disarmament Affairs, Geneva Branch, served as Secretary of the Group and was assisted by Mr. Bantan Nugroho, Political Affairs Officer.

12. The Group held plenary meetings and informal open-ended meetings and considered document CCW/GGE/2008-III/3, Annex II, titled “Cluster Munitions”, referred to as the “Chair’s paper”. The document is available in all official languages through the Official Document System of the United Nations (ODS) at <http://documents.un.org>, and the official CCW website as part of the website of the United Nations Office at Geneva at <http://www.unog.ch/CCW>.

13. At its first plenary meeting, on 1 September 2008, the Group confirmed the agenda as adopted at the first 2008 session of the Group (CCW/GGE/2008-I/3, Annex 1), confirmed the Rules of Procedure as adopted and used by the Third Review Conference (CCW/CONF.III/11, Part III), and agreed on its provisional Programme of Work. The Programme of Work of the fourth 2008 session of the Group of Governmental Experts is contained in Annex I.

14. At its final plenary meeting on 5 September 2008 the Group of Governmental Experts heard reports of the Chairperson and Friends of the Chair.

15. At the same plenary meeting on 5 September 2008 the Group of Governmental Experts adopted the procedural report of its fourth 2008 session, as contained in document CCW/GGE/2008-IV/CRP.1, as orally amended, which is being issued as document CCW/GGE/2008-IV/2.

Annex I**PROGRAMME OF WORK**

of the fourth 2008 Session of the Group of Governmental Experts

Monday, 1 September 2008	10.00 – 13.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Plenary</u>: Opening formalities; General exchange of views
	15.00 – 18.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Plenary</u>: Article 4 (General prohibitions and restrictions)
Tuesday, 2 September 2008	10.00 – 13.00	
	15.00 – 18.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Plenary</u>: Article 5 (Storage and Destruction) and Article 6 (Transfers)
Wednesday, 3 September 2008	10.00 – 13.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Plenary</u>
	15.00 – 18.00	
Thursday, 4 September 2008	10.00 – 13.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>FOC</u>: Article 5 (Storage and Destruction) and Article 6 (Transfers) • <u>Plenary</u>: Article 4 (General prohibitions and restrictions)
	15.00 – 18.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Plenary</u>: Article 4 (General prohibitions and restrictions)
Friday, 5 September 2008	10.00 – 13.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>FOC</u>: Article 2 (Definitions) • <u>Plenary</u>: Article 4 (General prohibitions and restrictions)
	15.00 – 18.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Plenary</u>: Wrap-up; Adoption of the Procedural Report; Closure of the session

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

of the fourth 2008 Session of the Group of Governmental Experts

CCW/GGE/2008-IV/1	Provisional Programme of Work, submitted by the Chairperson
CCW/GGE/2008-IV/2	Procedural Report, submitted by the Secretariat
CCW/GGE/2008-IV/INF.1 and Add.1	List of Participants
CCW/GGE/2008-IV/CRP.1	Draft Procedural Report, submitted by the Secretariat
CCW/GGE/2008-IV/MISC.1	Provisional List of Participants

The documents above are available in all official languages through the Official Document System of the United Nations at <http://documents.un.org>, and the official CCW website as part of the website of the United Nations Office at Geneva at <http://www.unog.ch/CCW> .

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