

Geneva, 7-17 November 2006

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Tuesday, 7 November 2006, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. RIVASSEAU (France)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS (continued)

1. Mr. VELEZ BENEDETTI (Colombia) said that the Convention was a valuable instrument that contributed to the promotion and protection of international humanitarian law. It encouraged solidarity and international cooperation to deal with the damage caused by conventional weapons such as landmines, booby traps and other improvised explosive devices. He supported the comments made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations the previous day on the lasting effects of such weapons on children, future generations, displaced persons and post-conflict reconstruction. Universalization of the Convention was therefore a priority.
2. The Conference should focus on implementing policies to prohibit the transfer of such weapons to non-State actors. Adopting instruments to implement the existing principles of international humanitarian law and to improve the design of certain weapons, including mines other than anti-personnel mines and submunitions, was equally imperative. Measures to reduce the humanitarian risk from explosive remnants of war were another priority.
3. The Third Review Conference should be used to identify the areas on which States parties could agree and acknowledge those on which consensus was impossible. That would allow States parties to adopt effective measures on some issues and to leave more controversial issues to be settled at a later date, thus saving time and other resources.
4. He called on States parties to adopt the draft decision on the establishment of a sponsorship programme under the Convention and to take the necessary steps to implement the programme. The principal objective of the programme should be to enable countries affected by the illegal use of the weapons covered by the Convention to participate in the meetings of experts, so that the work of the Conference would be informed by their experience. That would provide a broader, more inclusive basis for participation than the current criterion, which was the apparent level of economic development of countries requesting sponsorship. The programme's steering committee should receive inputs from those affected countries as well as from donor countries.
5. Mr. BELEVAN TAMAYO (Peru) commended recent initiatives to promote the universality of the CCW. He urged all States parties to increase their participation in CCW meetings in order to raise awareness among the international community of the issues covered by the Convention and its protocols. The sponsorship programme would contribute to that end by encouraging the participation of developing countries. He took it that the proposed mechanism for the programme would be the one that had been successfully implemented by the donor countries under the Ottawa Convention.
6. Greater representation of States parties would also facilitate increased compliance with the Convention and its protocols. Peru supported the efforts to establish an appropriate mechanism that would encompass the Convention and all its protocols, which would be a significant improvement on the current system.

7. The Conference should focus on adopting measures to reduce the impact of mines other than anti-personnel mines on civilian populations, and to improve working conditions for mine-clearers during and after hostilities. The issues of detectability and the life cycle of mines were particularly relevant in that regard. The three-step approach to explosive remnants of war should be used for future work, and the McCormack report would assist in the search for ways to reduce the humanitarian effects of such remnants. Peru welcomed the imminent entry into force of Protocol V, which it planned to ratify in the near future.

8. Mr. TURCOTTE (Canada) congratulated the States parties that had ratified Protocol V, and called on them to ensure that they had the means, mechanisms and processes in place to meet their obligations. Canada had analysed its ability to meet such obligations, and it was hoped that the Government would ratify the Protocol in the near future.

9. States parties had reached an impasse on the issue of mines other than anti-personnel mines. Decisions should now be taken on the matter, which dated back to the First Review Conference in 1996. Canada proposed moving immediately to the negotiation of a new legally binding protocol that placed reasonable limitations on the active life of such mines and ensured that they were detectable by commonly available means. Any reduction in the military utility of such mines would be outweighed by the reduced humanitarian risk they would pose.

10. Canada welcomed the proposal to establish a group of governmental experts to study feasible precautions to improve the design of military laser systems in order to avoid the incidence of permanent blindness to unenhanced vision.

11. On the issue of ERW, Canada believed that if international humanitarian law was correctly applied and fully respected, it could provide adequate protection for civilians. The logical next step was to examine specific weapons systems. Canada had noted the proposal to negotiate a legally binding instrument to mitigate the adverse humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, as well as the proposal to continue the efforts of the Working Group on Explosive Remnants of War to examine ways to improve the design of munitions, including submunitions, in order to minimize the humanitarian risk they posed. Current and future proposals could be discussed within the CCW framework, and Canada welcomed the opportunity for constructive discussion on cluster munitions and other such weapons.

12. While several recent developments had amply demonstrated the relevance of the CCW, it was necessary to accelerate the pace of work in order to protect the lives and livelihoods of people throughout the world and to fulfil the promise of the Convention.

13. Mr. VALLE FONROUGE (Argentina) said that the Conference should adopt a broad negotiating mandate on the issue of mines other than anti-personnel mines that would reflect the diversity of opinions expressed over the past four years. It should facilitate the development of a regulatory instrument for the production and transfer of such weapons and to minimize the risks posed to the civilian population by irresponsible use of those weapons. Cooperation and assistance should be included in the instrument in order to facilitate accession by States with limited resources.

14. Since international humanitarian law contained sufficient provisions on the use of arms that could generate explosive remnants of war, debate in future should focus on preventive measures. Such measures should strive to improve the reliability of such munitions throughout their life cycle, including development, production, storage and use. Cooperation and technical assistance in that area would facilitate the adoption of the preventive measures by offsetting the increased costs of development and implementation, while avoiding the risk of undermining legitimate defence requirements.

15. Argentina supported the proposal to negotiate a legally binding instrument that addressed the humanitarian concerns posed by cluster munitions, and paid tribute to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for its work in that field.

16. His Government also backed the idea of adopting a compliance mechanism for the Convention and its protocols by means of an agreement attached to the Convention. The requirement that States parties should submit reports to the Secretary-General before each conference would improve on the current system.

17. The Plan of Action to promote the universality of the CCW also met with Argentina's approval. Argentina was a signatory to Protocol V and was currently considering ratification. With regard to point 10 (ii) of the Plan of Action, Argentina and ICRC had organized a regional seminar on weapons in international humanitarian law in Buenos Aires in August 2006. The sponsorship programme would help to promote universalization of the CCW Convention and encourage States parties to participate in meetings.

18. States parties should strive to ensure that the Conference built on the progress made at previous meetings. They should also maintain flexibility in order to strike a balance between the strengthening of international humanitarian law and legitimate defence requirements.

19. Mr. DA ROCHA PARANHOS (Brazil) said that States parties should take the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to the universalization and full implementation of the Convention and to lay the groundwork for its future strengthening. In that regard, he welcomed the imminent entry into force of Protocol V, which his Government would ratify shortly. That instrument provided an effective legal framework for tackling the problem of explosive remnants of war with preventive and remedial measures. While time should be allowed to assess the effectiveness of the new Protocol, technical discussions on measures to prevent munitions from becoming explosive remnants of war should be held, focusing on international cooperation and the exchange of technology. Brazil therefore supported the renewal of the mandate of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) to discuss such matters.

20. As the 2006 Coordinator of the GGE on Mines Other than Anti-Personnel Mines, he trusted that the revised provisions that he had submitted on such mines would provide a sound basis for the work of the Conference in that field. Given that different views persisted on the issue, dialogue and flexibility would be required in order to attain results.

21. He supported the development and adoption of a non-intrusive mechanism to promote compliance with the Convention and its protocols. Such a mechanism should be based on the principles of consultation, cooperation and clarification. Only States parties could take decisions

on the clarification of obligations deriving from the Convention and its protocols. Such decisions should be taken in a framework conducive to proper representation and formal decision-making.

22. Mr. MINE (Japan) said that while a number of concrete outcomes had been achieved since the Second Review Conference, the current Conference should examine ways to convene the GGE in a more cost-effective way in future.

23. Much preparation had gone into drafting a protocol regulating mines other than anti-personnel mines that would be meaningful from the humanitarian and security perspectives. States parties should not, however, forget that the aim of the protocol was to reduce the humanitarian impact of such mines. The new protocol should therefore strengthen Amended Protocol II, not weaken it. Obligations on detectability and active life were fundamental to the protocol, and should apply equally to all States parties.

24. In addition to Protocol V, progress had been made through discussions that had deepened the understanding of international humanitarian law principles applied to explosive remnants of war. Substantial discussions were under way on technical preventive measures for munitions, and the McCormack report provided a practical basis for further work. While States parties had not yet reached consensus on the issue of cluster munitions, efforts to balance humanitarian and security concerns continued.

25. Japan urged all States parties to demonstrate the will to compromise and cooperate on a universally applicable mechanism to promote compliance with the Convention and its protocols. Japan emphasized the importance of promoting the steady implementation and universalization of the Convention, whose merit lay in its ability to respond as the international community's problems evolved.

26. Mr. BIELASHOV (Ukraine) associated himself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Ukraine remained committed to full compliance with the Convention and all its protocols and emphasized the need to increase their effectiveness, for the benefit of both combatants and civilians. He hoped that the instruments would be further strengthened in the global and regional efforts towards disarmament and arms control.

27. He considered the issue of mines other than anti-personnel mines a paramount humanitarian concern and supported the adoption of a legally binding instrument which imposed limitations on the use and transfer of such weapons. The instrument should include provisions on bilateral, regional and international cooperation and assistance designed to facilitate its implementation by States parties.

28. He called upon States to promote the universalization of Protocol V on explosive remnants of war, which was about to enter into force. Protocol V would contribute to strengthening international humanitarian law and consolidate efforts to address the negative impacts of explosive remnants of war. Ukraine would welcome continued work on the subject by the Group of Governmental Experts in 2007.

29. The Convention and the protocols thereto remained a practical mechanism for reducing the risks to the civilian population from conventional military operations, and his Government would benefit from a clearly defined, transparent compliance mechanism. Ukraine supported all efforts to limit the use of weapons that inflicted suffering on civilians and combatants, as evidenced by the wide range of measures it had already taken and its determination to support new initiatives in that area.

30. Mr. MANALO (Philippines) said the Convention was one of the principal instruments of international humanitarian law and should be strengthened and universalized. In that regard, he commended the plan of action to promote the universalization of CCW.

31. He expressed the hope that significant progress could be reached on the issue of a compliance mechanism and welcomed the establishment of a voluntary sponsorship programme aimed at raising awareness of the Convention and its protocols.

32. In the light of the humanitarian problems caused by mines other than anti-personnel mines, the Philippines supported measures to restrict and regulate their use. It also shared the concern that cluster munitions posed severe threats to civilian populations, and endorsed calls to restrict and regulate their use. Technical efforts should be made to redesign such weapons, with a view to reducing their risk of becoming explosive remnants of war. His country was currently studying ratification of Protocol V, bearing in mind its forthcoming entry into force.

33. Mr. ITZCHAKI (Israel) said that the Convention, since its inception, constituted one of the more significant frameworks for achieving a balance between humanitarian concerns and legitimate military and security considerations. Discussions on the implementation of the CCW and its protocols, involving military experts and humanitarian organizations, had effectively helped to reduce human suffering.

34. The Convention had raised awareness of the effects of the irresponsible and indiscriminate use of certain conventional weapons and offered common ground to facilitate negotiations between States, whilst ensuring that legitimate security considerations were not compromised. However, the fact that the CCW had not yet been ratified by all States led to inconsistency in States' legal obligations, underlying the need for universal ratification.

35. His Government had been able to engage constructively in the CCW process and contribute to its development over the years. It would continue with that approach, in the firm belief that it was essential to strengthen the CCW process rather than create a parallel process outside the Convention framework.

36. The growing number of civilian casualties required special attention from the international community. While conventional weapons had legitimate objectives in relation to national security and defence, they had a clearly destabilizing strategic and humanitarian impact when used by terrorists. He stressed the need to address the present issue as a priority, taking into consideration the real threats posed to international peace and stability.

37. While States fighting to defend their citizens endeavoured to apply the restraint necessary to reduce human suffering, no boundaries or basic principles of international humanitarian law were observed by terrorists. That had been demonstrated in the recent conflict with Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, through the use of civilians as human shields and of civilian facilities as launch pads for attacks. How could the international community enhance its control over the transfer of weapons to rogue groups? That threat extended beyond the borders of any single region and should be the focus of future action within the CCW framework, rather than the addition of provisions which could provide further immunity to terrorists.

38. It was necessary to build on the success of the past achievements of CCW, in particular the provision of significant legal frameworks to deal with explosive remnants of war. Israel welcomed the entry into force of Protocol V, which provided a good basis for further discussions on preventative measures and on measures to ensure the safety and reliability of ammunition in order to reduce the risks of explosive remnants of war. His Government was proud to have engaged in five years of discussions to achieve a balanced instrument governing the use of mines other than anti-personnel mines in a manner that could truly reduce human suffering and facilitate rapid mine clearance in post-conflict situations.

39. The compliance mechanism agreed upon in Amended Protocol II could also be applicable to the entire Convention, since it reduced the possibility of abusing humanitarian concerns to promote a different political agenda. The need to avoid such abuse should guide the Conference in its consideration of the draft decision submitted on the issue.

40. Mr. FERNANDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba) said it was increasingly necessary to preserve multilateralism in international relations, based on strict compliance with the principles of international law and the United Nations Charter.

41. While military expenditure throughout the world now reached US\$ 1 trillion, 1 billion people were illiterate and 900 million starving worldwide. Barely 10 per cent of current military expenditure would be sufficient to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. However, that would require political will to channel resources towards the problems of underdevelopment and the gap between the richest and the poorest countries.

42. The people of Cuba has been living in a state of siege for the past 47 years, threatened with military aggression by the United States. In July 2006, The United States administration announced new measures in relation to a new annexation-oriented plan in its drive to destroy the Cuban revolution. The plan was accompanied by “secret” measures, suggesting further plans for attacks and the use of force. That had been compounded by the economic war against Cuba, whose access to necessary resources and advanced technologies for development had thus been impeded.

43. His Government therefore attached particular significance to national security, and felt that certain countries which advocated limiting the use of mines other than anti-personnel mines, while at the same time manufacturing increasingly sophisticated conventional weapons, lacked credibility.

44. Cuba had maintained a constructive approach throughout the discussions on anti-personnel landmines, and had even submitted a proposal to the Group of Governmental Experts at its 12th session, in an attempt to shift the focus of the discussions to take into account the opinions of developing countries. He noted with satisfaction that proposals had also been submitted by other countries.

45. He welcomed the presentation of the technical issues as recommendations. Nonetheless, some of the proposals put forward could be implemented only by countries which had a high level of considerable technological development and sufficient economic and military power, in contrast to developing countries like Cuba.

46. Any decision taken in relation to the implementation of the Convention and the protocols thereto should fall within the mechanism already established, and should be sufficiently flexible to address the concerns of all parties.

47. Cuba believed that the adoption of “best practices” as a legally binding measure could set negative precedents in the application of international rules for the prohibition or restriction of other weapons. It was not appropriate, from an ethical standpoint, to use the term “best practices” in reference to mechanisms that led to death and destruction, and they should be redesignated as “recommendations” of a voluntary character.

48. Cuba welcomed the entry into force of Protocol V, whose implementation and universalization should receive immediate attention. Cuba had already initiated constitutional procedures for its ratification.

49. Mr. İŞİK (Turkey) said that, after Turkey had become a State party to the Ottawa Convention on 1 March 2004, the CCW Convention and various protocols had entered into force for it on 2 September 2005. It was thus attending a Review Conference as a State party for the first time, and would now be in a position to play a more active role in achieving the aims of the Convention.

50. Mr. NAESS (Norway) said that legally binding instruments on both explosive remnants of war and mines other than anti-personnel mines were essential to reduce civilian suffering during and after armed conflict. Norway was pleased to note the imminent entry into force of Protocol V and was fully committed to its implementation. He urged all States that had not yet signed and ratified the Protocol to do so, and supported initiatives to promote its universalization.

51. The indiscriminate effects and unacceptably high number of explosive remnants of war left by cluster munitions was recognized by a growing number of States. He congratulated civil society for its efforts to highlight and document the human suffering that resulted. Information regarding the situation in Lebanon demonstrated that an international instrument on cluster munitions was urgently required. The instrument should focus on humanitarian aspects, clearly stating the obligations related to its implementation.

52. On the issue of mines other than anti-personnel mines, the situation of the civilian population and of humanitarian deminers must be improved. A legally binding new protocol

to the Convention on the issue must include provisions extending beyond those of Amended Protocol II. Detectability and active life, together with provisions relating to transfers, should form the basic pillars of the new protocol.

53. Norway supported further initiatives for the universalization of CCW and its protocols, and the establishment of a compliance mechanism. He reiterated his Government's will to work constructively towards the success of the current Review Conference.

54. Mr. DUBE (Observer for Zimbabwe) said that Zimbabwe was keen to sign all conventions that dealt with the improvement of international security. It had signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, and had participated in a campaign to end the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines that killed and maimed hundreds of people every week, most of whom were innocent and defenceless. Anti-personnel mines had a serious impact on development and reconstruction. Zimbabwe had previously had 800 kilometres of mined borders, which for many years had caused indiscriminate killing and maiming of people and animals. The adoption of the Ottawa Convention in 1997 had been an important milestone, and although conflicts continued, the world was becoming more secure as a result of the efforts being made to prohibit or restrict the use of certain conventional weapons. The Biological Weapons Convention was also particularly important, and he called on all States that possessed such weapons to destroy them, or ensure that they were used for peaceful purposes.

55. Mr. BLAŽEK (Czech Republic) said that the Eighth Annual Conference of the Parties to the Amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices (Amended Protocol II) had been held in Geneva on 6 November 2006, in order to permit consultation and cooperation on all issues related to the implementation of the Protocol. The Conference had been attended by 58 States parties and one signatory State, 10 observer States and a number of United Nations bodies, international organizations and NGOs, and 43 national annual reports had been submitted. The Conference had considered the issue of the deferral of compliance with paragraphs 2 (b) and 3 (a) and (b) of the Technical Annex of Amended Protocol II, and had noted that the permitted deferral period would expire on 3 December 2007. The Conference had decided that the dates and agenda of the Ninth Annual Conference in 2007 would be set at the current Review Conference. The Eighth Annual Conference had concluded with an appeal to all States to accede to Amended Protocol II as soon as possible, and called on the 86 States parties to promote wider adherence to the Protocol in their regions.

56. Mr. SPOERRI (International Committee of the Red Cross) said that over the past 11 years, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons had been extended to cover non-international armed conflicts, blinding laser weapons had been prohibited and new restrictions had been placed on landmines, booby traps and similar devices. Protocol V on explosive remnants of war had established new rules to minimize the death, injury and suffering caused by unexploded and abandoned ordnance. The present Review Conference was an opportunity to examine the status and operation of the Convention and its protocols, to evaluate the changes that had occurred in weapons technology and the nature of armed conflict, and to

further enhance international humanitarian law. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) urged States parties to adopt a new protocol to reduce the human costs of anti-vehicle mines and begin developing a new instrument to address the severe and long-term consequences of the use of cluster munitions. Mines other than anti-personnel mines had been the subject of extensive discussion, and ICRC had documented the serious impact of such mines on civilian populations and humanitarian assistance operations. ICRC delegates had witnessed the tragic consequences when civilian vehicles encountered such mines. Delegates themselves had also been the victims of such mines. A protocol on the subject could strengthen existing rules by requiring such weapons to be detectable and short-lived. Such a protocol must be legally binding, must represent a significant advance over the rules contained in Amended Protocol II and must be clear enough to be readily implemented in order to solve the problems on the ground.

57. For over 40 years, cluster munitions had been known to cause considerable civilian death and injury both during and after armed conflicts. Civilian suffering and the burden of clearing such weapons continued to grow relentlessly, and the list of States affected by those weapons increased every year. ICRC believed that the time had come for strong international action to end the predictable pattern of human tragedy associated with cluster munitions, whose specific characteristics fully justified strong action. ICRC called on all States to take action at the national level to end the use of inaccurate and unreliable cluster munitions, prohibit the targeting of such munitions against any military objective located in a populated area, eliminate stocks of inaccurate and unreliable cluster munitions and, pending their destruction, not to transfer such weapons to other countries. A new international instrument was needed to comprehensively and effectively address the problem of cluster munitions, and ICRC was prepared to host an international expert meeting in early 2007 to begin to identify the elements of such an agreement. The severe and disproportionate human costs associated with cluster munitions required strict regulation.

58. Review conferences played a crucial role in promoting the universalization and full implementation of the CCW. A total of 25 years had passed since the adoption of the Convention, and a substantive review should therefore be conducted to consider national implementation of CCW obligations, the establishment of national mechanisms to review the legality of new weapons, and the clarification of certain issues related to Protocol IV on binding laser weapons. In 2001, ICRC had submitted a report to the Second Review Conference which highlighted its concern that the prohibition of the use of bullets that exploded within the human body was in danger of being undermined by the production and proliferation of certain 12.7-millimetre multi-purpose bullets. The Review Conference had invited States to take appropriate action. Repeated ballistic tests had shown that those multi-purpose bullets could be expected to detonate in the human body under a variety of circumstances, including at short ranges and after having struck body armour. Although ICRC was not proposing further action by the Third Review Conference, it invited States to confirm that they considered the anti-personnel use of bullets that exploded in the human body to be prohibited. He urged States to integrate that rule into their military manuals and training materials.

59. Mr. GAYLARD (United Nations Mine Action Team) said that the United Nations bore constant witness to the humanitarian and socio-economic impact of landmines and explosive

remnants of war, including unexploded submunitions. In its observer capacity in the Group of Governmental Experts, the United Nations had facilitated field-based presentations and had contributed to the substantive discussions and negotiations among States parties. States parties had been kept regularly informed of the humanitarian threats and other challenges posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war. A recent United Nations survey conducted across a range of field programmes had drawn specific attention to such threats and challenges, and a United-Nations-commissioned report on the situation in Albania and the Lao People's Democratic Republic had highlighted the socio-economic and humanitarian impacts of cluster munitions.

60. The United Nations Mine Action Team had participated actively in the negotiations that had led to the adoption of Protocol V, and welcomed its imminent entry into force. The United Nations had also contributed to the development of a common understanding of the nature of cluster munitions and submunitions, and had consistently drawn attention to their adverse humanitarian and development impact and called for measures to mitigate that impact. Further efforts should be made by States parties to the CCW to work towards the conclusion of an agreement on mines other than anti-personnel mines to ensure that all such mines contained a self-destruction or self-deactivation mechanism, were detectable by commonly available technical mine detection equipment, and were not fitted with anti-handling devices or sensitive fuses that could be activated by the presence or proximity of a person. The United Nations Mine Action Team endorsed the Secretary-General's message to the present Review Conference, on the need to address the inhumane effects of cluster munitions and to adopt a mechanism for effective compliance and cooperation in respect of the CCW and its protocols. He also encouraged the adoption of a sponsorship programme for the CCW, which would facilitate wider participation in CCW meetings, particularly from countries affected by the use of certain conventional weapons including landmines, explosive remnants of war and cluster munitions.

61. Mr. NELLEN (Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining) said that a strong commitment to the humanitarian principle of regulating and restricting the use of mines other than anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions, would constitute a major achievement for years to come. Mines other than anti-personnel mines presented a serious obstacle to post-conflict recovery for returning refugees and other civilians, as well as humanitarian workers and the landmine clearance sector. He therefore hoped that States parties would strive to adopt a legally binding instrument to address all humanitarian concerns raised by the use of such mines. The Centre was ready to contribute to discussions, in particular on the detectability and active life of mines other than anti-personnel mines. Mines must be made detectable to metal detectors, through the inclusion of an eight-gram piece of iron in a single coherent mass. They should be fitted with a self-destruction or self-neutralization mechanism, with a back-up self-deactivation feature. In the event that agreement was not reached on the adoption of a new protocol, attention should be focused on the implementation of Amended Protocol II, in particular with respect to mines other than anti-personnel mines.

62. Turning to the issue of explosive remnants of war, he said that he hoped the entry into force of Protocol V would constitute a first step towards addressing the danger of unexploded ordnance and abandoned explosive ordnance after conflicts. Efforts were still required to

encourage States to ratify the new Protocol and implement it. Further efforts should be made to establish a strong compliance mechanism for CCW, and ensure its effectiveness. The draft decision on the possible CCW sponsorship programme usefully set out the general principles, goals and operational modalities of such a programme, in which the Centre was ready to participate if so requested.

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE FINAL DOCUMENTS (agenda item 18)  
(CCW/CONF.III/CRP.1)

63. The PRESIDENT drew the Committee members' attention to part I of the draft final document (CCW/CONF.III/CRP.1), which had been distributed in the conference room. The draft final document as a whole would be adopted later in the session.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.