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Agenda item 102

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

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 2019

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/74/372)*]

74/76. 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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 73/84 of 5 December 2018,

Recalling with satisfaction the adoption and entry into force of 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 Effects¹ and its amended article 1,² the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I),¹ the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II)¹ and its amended version,³ the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III),¹ the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV)⁴ and the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V),⁵

Recalling the results of the Fifth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, held in Geneva from 12 to 16 December 2016,

Welcoming the results of the 2018 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, held in Geneva from 21 to 23 November 2018,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1342, No. 22495.

² Ibid., vol. 2260, No. 22495.

³ Ibid., vol. 2048, No. 22495.

⁴ Ibid., vol. 2024, No. 22495.

⁵ Ibid., vol. 2399, No. 22495.



Welcoming also the results of the Twentieth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, held in Geneva on 20 November 2018,

Welcoming further the results of the Twelfth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, held in Geneva on 19 November 2018,

Noting with satisfaction that the Meeting of the Group of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, the Meeting of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V and the two sessions of the Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention were held in 2019,

Noting the decision of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II that the President-designate of the Twenty-first Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties would consult with delegations on possibilities to include discussions on good practices in the implementation of the Protocol with respect to mines other than anti-personnel mines, in particular with regard to the protection of civilians,

Recalling the role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the elaboration of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, and welcoming the particular efforts of various international, non-governmental and other organizations in raising awareness of the humanitarian consequences of various categories of conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects,

Emphasizing the importance of the perspectives of women, men, boys and girls in considering the issues addressed by the Convention and its Protocols,

1. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to take all measures to become parties, as soon as possible, 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 Effects¹ and the Protocols thereto, as amended, with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to these instruments at an early date and so as to ultimately achieve their universality;

2. *Calls upon* all High Contracting Parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to express their consent to be bound by the Protocols to the Convention and the amendment extending the scope of the Convention and the Protocols thereto to include armed conflicts of a non-international character;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the universalization of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V);⁵

4. *Welcomes* additional ratifications and acceptances of or accessions to the Convention, as well as consents to be bound by the Protocols thereto;

5. *Acknowledges* the continued efforts of the Secretary-General, as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, and of the respective office holders of the conferences of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, Protocol V and Amended Protocol II, on behalf of the High Contracting Parties, to achieve the goal of universality;

6. *Recalls* the following decisions by the Fifth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention:

(a) To establish an open-ended Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems in the context of the objectives and purposes of the Convention, adhering to the agreed recommendations contained in document CCW/CONE.V/2, and to submit a report to

the 2017 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention consistent with those recommendations;

(b) To add to the agenda of the next Meeting of the High Contracting Parties in 2017 the item “Protocol III”;

(c) To add to the agenda of the next Meeting of the High Contracting Parties in 2017 the item “Mines other than anti-personnel mines”;⁶

(d) To add to the agenda of the next Meeting of the High Contracting Parties in 2017 the item for informal discussion “Consideration of how developments in the field of science and technology relevant to the Convention may be addressed under the Convention”;

(e) To invite the Chair-elect to conduct consultations with a view to including on the agenda of the 2017 annual Meeting of the High Contracting Parties the item “Strengthening the respect for international humanitarian law and addressing, in the context and objectives of the Convention and its annexed Protocols, the challenges presented by the use of conventional weapons in armed conflicts and their impact on civilians, particularly in areas where there are concentrations of civilians”;

(f) To include on the agenda of the annual Meetings of the High Contracting Parties the item “Financial issues related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols” and to consider at the next such meeting efficiency and cost-saving measures and a report to be prepared by the Chair-elect;

(g) To retain the practice of keeping summary records only for the final sessions of the future Review Conferences, the meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, and the Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II and Protocol V;

(h) To continue the Sponsorship Programme;

7. *Also recalls* the following decisions by the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention in 2018:

(a) To call for a seven-day meeting, to be held in Geneva in 2019, of the Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems in the context of the objectives and purposes of the Convention;

(b) To call for the universalization and full implementation of Protocol III on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons,¹ given the Protocol’s importance;

(c) To place on the agenda of its next meeting the item “Emerging issues in the context of the objectives and purposes of the Convention” and to invite the High Contracting Parties to submit working papers on issues that they intend to raise;

(d) To clarify certain aspects of the financial measures adopted at the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties in 2017 and to continue to monitor the financial situation of the Convention;

(e) To request the Chair-elect to continue consultations aimed at improving the stability of the Secretariat’s support to the Convention;

⁶ Noting the update included in paragraph 34 of the final report of the 2018 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention ([CCW/MSP/2018/11](#)).

8. *Calls upon* all High Contracting Parties to ensure full and prompt compliance with their financial obligations under the Convention and its annexed Protocols;
9. *Welcomes* the renewed efforts to strengthen the financial situation of the Convention and to find a stable basis for the Implementation Support Unit;
10. *Also welcomes* the work of the Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems, including its 2018 report, which has provided a basis for further work;
11. *Further welcomes* the commitment by the High Contracting Parties to continue to contribute to the further development of international humanitarian law, and, in this context, to keep under review both the development of new weapons and uses of weapons, which may have indiscriminate effects or cause unnecessary suffering;
12. *Welcomes* the commitment of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V to the effective and efficient implementation of the Protocol and the implementation of the decisions of the First and Second Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to the Protocol establishing a comprehensive framework for the exchange of information and cooperation;
13. *Notes* that, in conformity with article 8 of the Convention, conferences may be convened to examine amendments to the Convention or to any of the Protocols thereto, to examine additional protocols concerning other categories of conventional weapons not covered by existing Protocols or to review the scope and application of the Convention and the Protocols thereto and to examine any proposed amendments or additional protocols;
14. *Underlines* the vital role of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making and implementation of the Convention;
15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render the assistance necessary and to provide such services as may be required for the annual conferences and expert meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention and of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II and Protocol V, as well as for any continuation of the work after the meetings;
16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, to continue to inform the General Assembly periodically, by electronic means, of ratifications and acceptances of and accessions to the Convention, its amended article 1² and the Protocols;
17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled “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”.

*46th plenary meeting
12 December 2019*