
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

12 November 2009
English
Original: French

Geneva, 7–13 November 2007

Summary record of the 7th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Monday, 12 November 2007, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Verros..... (Greece)

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Plan of Action to promote the universality of the Convention, including the implementation of the CCW Sponsorship Programme (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Plan of Action to promote the universality of the Convention, including the implementation of the CCW Sponsorship Programme (agenda item 8) (continued)

1. **The Chairperson** introduced the draft decision on the universality of the Convention and the Sponsorship Programme, as amended since the previous meeting at the request of one delegation. In paragraph 1, at the end of the first sentence, the word “all” had been deleted before the words “its annexed Protocols”. In the last sentence, the words “pursuant to Article 4 of the Convention” had been inserted between the phrases “and its annexed Protocols” and “and that all States respect and ensure respect ...”. Paragraphs 2 and 3 remained unchanged.
2. **Mr. Khelif** (Algeria) noted that, in addition to universal adherence, paragraph 1 also mentioned compliance with the Convention; yet the Plan of Action which was the subject of the draft decision referred only to the universality of the Convention and its annexed Protocols.
3. Furthermore, his delegation considered that the Convention and its amended article 1 constituted two separate instruments. It therefore suggested that, in the first sentence of paragraph 1, after the phrase “and compliance with the Convention” the words “as amended” should be replaced by the words used in Action No. 1 of the Plan of Action, namely “and the Amendment to Article 1 of the Convention” (and amended article 1).
4. **Mr. Prasad** (India) proposed that, at the end of paragraph 1, the word “substantive” before the word “provisions” should be deleted, since it opened the possibility of choosing between important and less important provisions, which did not seem appropriate.
5. **Mr. Marchenko** (Ukraine) said that his country was doing its utmost to destroy all types of munitions, including those not covered by the Convention. Each year, 50,000 shells and other munitions dating from the Second World War were discovered on Ukrainian territory and destroyed. Ukraine had 32 major disused military sites, with a total surface area of approximately 500 km², which needed to be cleared of various types of unexploded ordnance. There were still approximately 10,000 tons of munitions awaiting destruction in munitions depot No. 275, located in the Zaporozhye region. Ukraine thanked the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and Switzerland for the technical assistance they provided with a view to eliminating the munitions, which caused around 50 casualties a year. The warehouses of the Ukrainian armed forces contained almost 1.2 million tons of rockets and munitions awaiting destruction. Each year, Ukraine allocated US \$30 million to the destruction of those munitions, but it had little possibility of increasing that funding, which was not sufficient to resolve the problem in the near future.
6. His delegation proposed that criteria should be defined for establishing sponsorship schemes. Above all it was a question of assessing the scope of the problem in the countries concerned, the amount of munitions, their condition and the risks they posed.
7. **The Chairperson** read out paragraph 1, taking into account the amendments suggested by the delegations of Algeria and India.
8. **Mr. Khelif** (Algeria), supported by Mr. Laasel (Morocco), said that, for the sake of consistency, the words “as amended” should also be replaced by “and the amendment to Article 1 of the Convention” in the last sentence of paragraph 1.
9. **The Chairperson** said he took it that the amendments to paragraph 1 were acceptable to delegations.
10. *It was so decided.*

11. **The Chairperson** proposed that the three paragraphs of the draft decision on the universality of the Convention and the Sponsorship Programme should be adopted ad referendum.

12. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.