



**CHAIR  
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT  
GENEVA CHAPTER**



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**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)**

**2023 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**

Geneva, 13 - 15 November 2024

**Statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and Other States Parties to the  
Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) by  
Uganda to the United Nations Office in Geneva**

**Agenda Item 7: General exchange of views**

**Mr. Chairman,**

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the States Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and other 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).
2. The NAM Group congratulates His Excellency, Ambassador Yuri Sterk, on his election as Chairperson of the 2024 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties of the CCW.
3. The Group is confident that with your knowledge, experience and diplomatic skills you will be able to guide our work effectively towards achieving the common objectives of the Meeting. The Group stands ready to engage constructively with the Chair and other States Parties to bring this 2024 Meeting to a successful conclusion.

**Mr. Chairman,**

4. The States Parties of the NAM and other States Parties to the CCW, re-emphasize the position of the Heads of State or Government of NAM States Parties to the CCW and its Protocols as reflected in the Final Document adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the NAM, which took place on 5-6 July 2023, in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan.
5. NAM States Parties to the Convention on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of CCW which May be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) and its Protocols encouraged States to become signatories to the Convention and its Protocols.
6. NAM States Parties to CCW welcome the accession of Trinidad and Tobago to the Convention and its annexed protocols.
7. NAM States Parties and other States Parties to CCW strongly believe that the universal adherence to and further strengthening of the Convention will make a significant contribution to progressive development of the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict and advancing further in the field of disarmament on the basis of universal, multilateral, non-discriminatory and transparent negotiations with the goal of reaching general and complete disarmament under strict international control.
8. In this regard, the NAM condemns in the strongest terms the acts of aggression and collective punishment by Israel, the illegal occupying Power, against the Palestinian people, in grave breach of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, including, inter alia,



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the killing and injury of tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including many children and women, in the Israeli military aggression that began in October 2023 against the besieged Gaza Strip, as well as in attacks by the occupying forces and extremist settlers and settler militias in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; the massive destruction of homes, hospitals, schools, universities, mosques, churches, UNRWA shelters and other civilian infrastructure, including water, sanitation and electricity networks, in the Gaza Strip; seizure and demolitions of homes and properties.

9. The NAM demands an immediate humanitarian ceasefire towards a permanent cessation of hostilities and an immediate end to the siege and collective punishment of the Palestinian people. It reiterates the calls for protection of the civilian population and extension of urgent support and solidarity, including the provision of emergency humanitarian aid to alleviate their suffering and support resilience in the face of catastrophic humanitarian conditions (Para 7 and 8 NAM Political Declaration on Palestine January 2024).
10. NAM remains concerned at the continuous erosion of multilateralism in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control. The Movement is determined to continue promoting multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in these areas and as the only sustainable approach to address these issues, in accordance with the UN Charter.
11. Non-fulfilment of the commitments and obligations assumed under the relevant international legally binding instruments especially on conventional weapons continues to pose threats to global peace and security.
12. NAM notes that an important principle of the Convention is to balance humanitarian concerns with the legitimate military utility and necessity of certain conventional weapons.
13. NAM continues to affirm the sovereign right of States to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain conventional arms and relevant parts, components, and ammunition for their self-defence and security needs. NAM expresses its concern about unilateral coercive measures in this area and emphasizes that no undue restriction should be placed on transfer of such arms.
14. While resources for socio-economic development remain limited, more resources are devoted to the development of sophisticated and deadly conventional weapons that are used around the world which undermines international peace and security.
15. Paradoxically, some States that are leaders in the modernization, manufacture, use and commercialization of more advanced conventional weapons try to impose international regulations to limit and hinder the acquisition and use, for purposes of self-defence, of certain types of less sophisticated conventional weapons, such as small arms and light weapons. We reject such double standards. The highest priority must be to control and limit the most sophisticated and destructive conventional weapons, which are the ones that cause the most innocent victims in modern wars.



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**Mr. Chairman,**

- 16.** The NAM States Parties and other States Parties to the CCW welcome the efforts and work carried out by the High Contracting Parties within the framework of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (GGE on LAWS) in implementation of its mandate and supports its continuation, in the context of the objectives and purposes of the Convention, based on an agreed mandate.
- 17.** The NAM States Parties and other States Parties to the CCW take note of the Report for the 2023 Session of the CCW GGE on LAWS contained in the document CCW/GGE.1/2023/2. They welcome the conclusion reached in 2023 that control with regard to LAWS is needed to uphold compliance the international law, in particular IHL, including the principles and rules of distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack. The NAM States Parties and other States Parties to the CCW reaffirm the international humanitarian law continues to apply fully to all weapons systems, including the potential development and use of lethal autonomous weapons systems. The Group recalls the mandate adopted in 2023 for the for the GGE on LAWS, which includes, inter alia, “to further consider and formulate, by consensus, a set of elements of an instrument, without prejudging its nature”. The Coordinator of the Group of NAM would like to reiterate the readiness of the Group to engage constructively with the Chair of the GGE on the fulfilment of this mandate.
- 18.** The NAM States Parties and other States Parties to the CCW look forward that the GGE can make progress towards the development of concrete policy recommendations, including elements for new legally-binding provisions for addressing the humanitarian and international security challenges posed by emerging technologies in the area of LAWS. NAM expects this to be reflected in a strengthened mandate for the future work of GGE on LAWS
- 19.** The Group of NAM take this opportunity to reiterate its position and recalls that Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS) raise several ethical, legal, moral and technical, as well as international peace and security-related questions which are being deliberated and examined in the context of conformity to international law including international humanitarian law and international human rights law.
- 20.** The Group of NAM also recalls that the ethical and moral concerns about lethal autonomous weapons systems, the problems of autonomy, lethality and critical functions of these weapons and shared understandings, definitions and other concepts including of semiautonomous weapons, are being examined in the substantive discussions of this matter.
- 21.** Conscious of the rapid development and possible deployment and use of LAWS in armed conflict is alarming and worrying and requires urgent action by the CCW on a precautionary approach.
- 22.** The NAM States Parties and other States Parties to the CCW are of the view that building on the substantive discussions in the GGE on LAWS, there is an urgent need to pursue a legally binding instrument under the Convention that will contain prohibitions and regulations for addressing the humanitarian and international security challenges posed by emerging technologies in the area of LAWS. The recommendations in relation to the normative and operational framework must lead to such an instrument
- 23.** The NAM States Parties and other States Parties to the CCW request that the GGE while focusing on a legally binding instrument, on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems, may take in to account the following:
  - a) The implementation and enforcement of International Law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, in the context of lethal autonomous



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weapons systems. A strengthened and reinforced multilateral approach, with new legally binding provisions for addressing the humanitarian and international security challenges posed by emerging technologies in the area of LAWS, is vital. There is an urgent need to pursue a legally-binding instrument on LAWS.

- b) The responsibility of States for internationally unlawful acts caused by lethal autonomous weapons systems.
- c) Human responsibility, as well as accountability, for developing, deploying and using any emerging weapons system in the framework of the CCW, in accordance with applicable international law.
- d) Ethical and moral concerns about lethal autonomous weapons systems in particular with the use of force. The discussion on the autonomy, lethality, and critical functions of these weapons, must lead to regulations that will ensure meaningful human control over weapons systems.
- e) Common understandings, definitions, and other concepts, including of semi-autonomous weapons, and the characterization of and differentiation among such weapon systems.
- f) Military technology and risk of an arms race of fully autonomous weapons, and the technology gap amongst States.
- g) The impact on international and regional peace and security.

**21.** Regarding different proposals on a political declaration, code of conduct and other voluntary measures, including national weapons review process, Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) as well as the establishment of a Committee of Experts, NAM States Parties and Other States Parties to the CCW believes that these measures cannot be a substitute for the objective of concluding a legally-binding instrument stipulating prohibitions and regulations.

**Mr. Chairman,**

**22.** NAM recognizes the significant imbalance in the production, possession and trade in conventional weapons between the industrialized and Non-Aligned Countries, and calls for a significant reduction in the production, possession and trade of conventional weapons by the industrialized states with a view to enhancing international and regional peace and security.

**23.** The Group of NAM and Other States Parties to the CCW expresses concern at the increasing global military expenditure, which could otherwise be spent on development needs. The Group of NAM further stresses the importance of the reduction of military expenditures, in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, and urges all States to devote resources made available from there to economic and social development, in particular in the fight against poverty.

**24.** Regarding Mines other than antipersonnel mines (MOTAPM), NAM considers that this issue has already been widely discussed and the divergences in positions are well known.

**25.** Concerning cross-cutting issues, the Group of NAM and Other States Parties to the CCW emphasizes the importance of the perspectives of women, men, boys and girls in considering the issues addressed by the Convention and its Protocols and underlines the vital role of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making and implementation of the Convention.



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**Mr. Chairman,**

- 26.** Regarding the financial issues related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols, the Group of NAM is of the view that it will be necessary to adopt efficiency and cost saving measures in consultations with all High Contracting Parties in order to address the current financial situation of the Convention.
- 27.** NAM recognizes the importance of increasing the financial sustainability of the Convention. However, setting up punitive measures might not be effective and may have unintended adverse effects on participation and membership.
- 28.** The financial challenges must be dealt with, but they are transitory. The measures taken to address them should not undermine the Convention in the long run. The Group of NAM is concerned with the possible impacts of the financial measures on participation of member States and, ultimately, on the perspectives of universalizing the Convention.
- 29.** The Group of NAM express its deep concern on the continued lack of adequate representation from NAM countries in United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the movement requests the Secretary General and High Representative to undertake steps to ensure balanced and equitable representation in that office.
- 30.** The Group of NAM and Other States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) looks forward to engage and participate constructively and active manner to consider and review proposals with a view to reach a consensual outcome.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

