
Sixth Review Conference 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

15 September 2021

Original: English

Preparatory Committee

Geneva, 6 - 8 September 2021

Agenda item 11

Report of the Preparatory Committee to the Review Conference

Final report of the Preparatory Committee

I. Introduction

1. The Fifth Review Conference 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) recalled the agreement “reached at all four previous Review Conferences that such conferences should continue to be held on a regular basis”, as contained in paragraph 50 on the review of Article 8 of the Convention as stipulated in its final document CCW/CONF.V/10.
2. By resolution 75/85, adopted without a vote on 7 December 2020, the General Assembly inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance 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.
3. Due to the extraordinary circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties could not be held, and technical decisions (CCW/2020/1) were adopted through a silence procedure in April 2021. Paragraph 3(f) of the decisions stipulated that the Sixth Review Conference would be held from 13 to 17 December 2021, and that its Preparatory Committee meet from 6 to 8 September 2021, under the responsibility of the President-designate of the Sixth Review Conference, Ambassador Yann Hwang of France.

II. Organization of the Preparatory Committee

4. In accordance with these decisions, the Preparatory Committee convened and held six meetings in Geneva from 6 to 8 September 2021. The Committee was opened by Ambassador Robbert Jan Gabriëlse, Chairperson of the 2020 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention.
5. At its first meeting, the Preparatory Committee elected Ambassador Yann Hwang of France as Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee.

6. Ms. Heegyun Jung, Political Affairs Officer, CCW Implementation Support Unit, served as Secretary of the Preparatory Committee. Ms. Juliana Helou van der Berg, Associate Political Affairs Officer of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) Geneva Branch served in the Secretariat of the Committee.

7. The following High Contracting Parties to the Convention participated in the work of the Committee: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Holy See, Hungary, India, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

8. The representatives of the following organizations participated in the work of the Committee: European Union, United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

9. The following non-governmental organizations and entities participated in the work of the Committee: Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

III. Work of the Preparatory Committee

10. The Preparatory Committee adopted its agenda (CCW/CONF.VI/PC/1), and programme of work (CCW/CONF.VI/PC/2) and confirmed the Rules of Procedure (CCW/CONF.V/4).

11. The following delegations participated in the general exchange of views: Algeria; Argentina; Austria; Brazil; Chile; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Cuba; Ecuador; Iraq; Ireland; Israel; Japan; Mexico; New Zealand; Pakistan; Panama; Peru; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Spain; State of Palestine on behalf of Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, State of Palestine and Uruguay; Switzerland; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) on behalf of the members and observers of the Non-Aligned Movement that are High Contracting Parties to the CCW, European Union and ICRC.

12. The Committee addressed "Preparations for Main Committee I." Under this agenda item, no delegation participated in the discussion.

13. The Committee addressed the "Preparations for Main Committee II." The Chairperson of the 2021 Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), Ambassador Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve of Belgium, presented on the work of the Group. Under this agenda item, the following delegations participated in the discussion: Austria; Brazil on behalf of Brazil, Chile and Mexico; China; Costa Rica on behalf of Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, State of Palestine and Uruguay; India; Ireland; Italy; Japan; Netherlands; Pakistan; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sweden; Switzerland; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America and Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

14. Under agenda item "Financial issues and relations between the High Contracting Parties and the UN," the Committee heard a presentation by Ms. Radha Day, Chief of

Service a.i. of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, Geneva Branch. The following delegations participated in the discussion: Austria, Canada, China, Cuba, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The Committee encouraged High Contracting Parties and observer States to pay their annual assessed contributions without delay and in full. The Committee also recalled that the ISU is the essential element for effective implementation of the CCW and its operational continuity. As mandated by the Technical Decisions of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW of April 2021, the President-designate of the Sixth Review Conference will undertake consultations during the intersessional period on possible measures to address all aspects of the financial situation of the Convention.

15. Under the agenda item on "Any other business," the Committee agreed that regarding summary records, relevant decisions of the Fifth Review Conference will continue to be implemented. The issue of online accessibility of CCW official documents, including from previous years, was also discussed. The High Contracting Parties called upon the ISU to improve the operation and accessibility of the website of the CCW and expressed an interest in further consultations on the issue.

IV. Organization of the Sixth Review Conference

16. The Preparatory Committee endorsed the Provisional Agenda of the Sixth Review Conference, as contained in Annex I and to be issued as CCW/CONF.VI/1.

17. The Preparatory Committee agreed to recommend the Provisional Programme of Work of the Sixth Review Conference as contained in Annex II and to be issued as CCW/CONF.VI/2.

18. The Preparatory Committee agreed to recommend as the draft Rules of Procedure of the Sixth Review Conference the Rules of Procedure of the Fifth Review Conference, as contained in document CCW/CONF.V/4.

19. The Preparatory Committee agreed to recommend to the Sixth Review Conference the following nominations as officeholders:

Committees

Main Committee II	Chairperson	Ambassador Maria Teresa Almojuela (Philippines)
Drafting Committee	Chairperson	Ambassador Yann Hwang (France)
Credentials Committee	Chairperson	Mr. Laurent Masméjean (Switzerland)

20. The Preparatory Committee agreed to request the President-designate to conduct informal consultations with the regional groups in the intersessional period on the recommendation for the nomination of remaining officeholders for the Sixth Review Conference. The President-designate will keep the High Contracting Parties informed of the outcomes of his consultations in due course.

21. The Preparatory Committee agreed to recommend Ms. Radha Day, Chief of Service a.i. of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, Geneva Branch, as the provisional Secretary General of the Sixth Review Conference.

V. Documentation

22. A list of official documents of the Preparatory Committee meeting is contained in Annex III to this report. All documents on this list are available on the CCW website (<https://meetings.unoda.org/section/ccw-prepcom-2021-documents/>), as well as through the United Nations Official Document System (ODS), at <http://documents.un.org>.

VI. Adoption of the Final Report

23. At its final meeting on 8 September 2021, the Preparatory Committee adopted its final report as contained in CCW/CONF.VI/PC/CRP.1, as orally amended, which will be issued as CCW/CONF.VI/PC/3.

Advance

Annex I

Provisional Agenda

Endorsed by the Preparatory Committee

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Confirmation of the nomination of the President-designate
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Adoption of the rules of procedure
5. Confirmation of the nomination of the Secretary-General of the Conference
6. Organization of work including that of the subsidiary bodies of the Conference
7. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the Review Conference, Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the main Committees, the Drafting Committee, and the Credentials Committee
8. Appointment of the Credentials Committee
9. Submission of the report of the Preparatory Committee
10. Submission of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts
11. General exchange of views
12. Review of the scope and operation of the Convention and its annexed protocols
13. Consideration of any proposal for the Convention and its existing protocols
14. Consideration of proposals for additional protocols to the Convention and other proposals
15. Financial issues related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols and relations between HCP and UN
16. Other matters
17. Report of the Credentials Committee
18. Reports of the Main Committees
19. Report of the Drafting Committee
20. Consideration and adoption of the final documents
21. Closing of the Conference

Annex II

Provisional programme of work for the Sixth Review Conference

Recommended by the Preparatory Committee

Monday, 13 December 2021

10:00 – 13:00

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Confirmation of the nomination of the President-designate
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Adoption of the rules of procedure
5. Confirmation of the nomination of the Secretary-General of the Conference
6. Organization of work including that of the subsidiary bodies of the Conference
7. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the Review Conference, Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Main Committees, the Drafting Committee, and the Credentials Committee
8. Appointment of the Credentials Committee
9. Submission of the report of the Preparatory Committee
10. Submission of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts

13:00 – 15:00

Meeting of the Credentials Committee

15:00 – 18:00

10. Submission of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts (continued)
11. General exchange of views (statement limited to 5mn)

18:00

Meeting of the General Committee

Tuesday, 14 December 2021

10:00 – 13:00

11. General exchange of views (continued - statement limited to 5mn)

Meeting of Main Committee I

12. Review of the scope and operation of the Convention and its annexed Protocols
13. Consideration of any proposal for the Convention and its existing Protocols

13:00 – 15:00

Meeting of the Credentials Committee

15:00 – 18:00

Meeting of Main Committee II

14. Consideration of proposals for additional protocols to the Convention and other proposals

18:00

Meeting of the General Committee

Wednesday, 15 December 2021

10:00 – 13:00

Meeting of Main Committee I (continued)

13:00 – 15:00

Meeting of the Credentials Committee

15:00 – 18:00

Meeting of Main Committee I (continued). Adoption of the report

Thursday, 16 December 2021

10:00 – 13:00

Meeting of Main Committee II (continued).

15:00 – 18:00

Meeting of Main Committee II (continued). Adoption of the report

Meeting of the Plenary

15. Financial issues related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols and relations between HCP and UN

16. Other matters

18:00

Meeting of the Drafting Committee

Friday, 17 December 2021

10:00 – 13:00

Meeting of the Plenary

17. Report of the Credentials Committee

18. Reports of the Main Committees
19. Report of the Drafting Committee

15:00 – 18:00

Meeting of the Plenary

20. Consideration and adoption of the final document
21. Closing of the Conference

Advance

Annex III**List of documents**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
CCW/CONF.VI/PC/1	Provisional agenda
CCW/CONF.VI/PC/2	Provisional programme of work
CCW/CONF.VI/PC/3	Final report
CCW/CONF.VI/INF.1	List of participants

Advance