**Transfer and Use of Conventional Weapons in Areas Affected by Armed Conflict**

The International Humanitarian Law (IHL) contains basic principles and rules that govern the choice of weapons and prohibit or restrict the use of certain weapons. Since the beginning, IHL has sought to reduce the suffering caused by armed conflict. To this end, IHL addresses both the conduct of combatants and the choice of means and methods of warfare, including weapons. Early treaties prohibited the use of explosive projectiles weighing less than 400 grams (in 1868) and bullets that flattened upon penetrating the human body (in 1899). In addition to weapons of mass destruction such as biological and chemical weapons prohibited by the 1925 Geneva Protocol, the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) of 1972, and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) of 1993, several conventional weapons are regulated in the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). This convention prohibits the use of munitions using fragments that cannot be detected by X-rays and blinding laser weapons. It also limits the use of incendiary devices as well as mines, booby traps, and "other devices". The Convention is also the first to establish a framework to address the post-conflict dangers of unexploded and abandoned ordnance. Antipersonnel landmines are prohibited by the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction. More than three-quarters of the world's countries are party to the convention, which had a positive effect in terms of stockpile destruction, mine clearance, loss reduction, and victim assistance. On 30 May 2008, 107 countries adopted the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which entered into force on 1 August 2010 and now has 110 states parties. By adopting and signing the Convention, nations have taken a major step toward putting an end to the ongoing deaths, injuries, and suffering caused by these weapons.

Despite international efforts to limit the spread of conventional arms, developing countries remain the primary focus of foreign arms sales activity through arms suppliers ttransparency in armaments is a key confidence-building measure. It may encourage restraint in the transfer or production of arms, and can contribute to preventive diplomacy.

**Therefore, in the margins of Maat’s participation in the first session of the 2022 Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) from 7 to 11 March 2022 and the launch the Global Coalition for Limitation of Armaments (GCLA), Maat is organizing an event entitled “Transfer and Use of Conventional Weapons in Areas Affected by Armed Conflict” on 11 March 2022 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm at the Palais des Nations.**

**Event Themes:**

* Definition of conventional weapons and their threat to global security
* Possible options for addressing the international humanitarian and security challenges posed by emerging technologies in the field of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) in the context of the objectives Conventional Weapons Convention
* New flows and illicit arms trade and transfer to countries of armed conflict
* International mechanisms and laws, and national follow-up and evaluation

**Event Objectives:**

* The event aims to explore the new flows and illicit arms trade across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region
* This situation threatens the human and national security of the countries of the region. Combating war economy activities in war-torn countries will be a critical issue in the post-conflict context, and this relates to combating small arms and light weapons transfers that may fuel conflict at the societal and ethnic levels.
* The event aims at examining illicit arms transfers to states in conflict. It outlines policy options that address the economic, social, and political aspects of this threat. Accordingly, it will examine the current international legal framework and the mechanisms used by the region and international organizations such as the United Nations, as well as how to bridge the gap between them and the national authorities responsible for eliminating this threat.

**Logistical Details:**

Event Organizers**: Maat for Peace, Development, and Human Rights; the Global Coalition for Limitation of Armaments (GCLA), and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)**

Event Title: **Transfer and Use of Conventional Weapons in Areas Affected by Armed Conflict**

Date: **11 March 2022**

Suggested timing: **1:00:2:00 pm Geneva time**

Action:  **online &offline in Geneva “United Nations Palace"-** **Room Tempus 2**

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| Join Zoom Meeting  <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84141505729?pwd=NktTZk1QbVNJRGduTkVDUnl5cEpSdz09>  Meeting ID: 841 4150 5729  Passcode: 220833 |

**Programme**

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| Time | Subject and speaker | | # |
| 5 minutes | **Introduction to the event**  Moderator |  |
| 12 minutes | **Introduction to the Global Coalition for Limitation of Armaments (GCLA)**  **The current challenges of illicit arms transfers**  Ayman Okail, President of the Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association |  |
| 12 minutes | **Definition of conventional weapons and their threat to global security?**  **Possible options for addressing the international humanitarian and security challenges posed by emerging technologies in the field of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) in the context of the object and purposes of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)**  Marc Finaud, Head of 'Arms Proliferation' at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy |  |
| 12 minutes | **New flows and illicit arms trade and transfer to countries of armed conflict**. |  |
| 12 minutes | **International mechanisms and laws, and national follow-up and evaluation.** |  |
| 5 minutes | **Questions and comments** |  |