

**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**

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 9 November 2007, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. VERROS (Greece)

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The meeting was called to order at 4.10 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS (agenda item 10) (continued)

1. The CHAIRPERSON invited Ambassador Kārklīņš (Latvia), who had been coordinating consultations concerning a negotiating mandate on cluster munitions, to report on the progress of the consultations thus far.
2. Mr. KĀRKLIŅŠ (Latvia) said that over the last two days he had held bilateral and multilateral consultations with a view to reaching consensus on the basic elements for a draft decision on a negotiating mandate. The starting point for consultations had been the draft mandate proposed by the European Union during the 2007 Session of the Group of Governmental Experts. However, in the course of the consultations, it had become apparent that other elements would have to be taken into consideration. Consensus now seemed to be emerging on the need for the Group of Governmental Experts to conduct negotiations, without preconditions and prejudice as to their outcome, on an instrument of the Convention in order to address urgently the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions. There was also broad consensus on the importance of striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations.
3. The European Union had proposed a specific time frame for the task. However, a more flexible approach seemed preferable, and it was therefore suggested that the Group of Governmental Experts should draft the instrument as soon as possible and report on progress made to the next Meeting of the High Contracting Parties in November 2008. It was further suggested that the Group should meet not less than three times for a total of up to seven weeks, and that military experts should be involved in its work.
4. As things stood, the majority of delegations consulted considered that such elements were not sufficient to prepare a draft decision on a negotiating mandate, while others considered that they were too broad in scope. He would be unable to coordinate consultations during the last few days of the Meeting, but urged delegations to continue bilateral and multilateral consultations all the same.
5. The CHAIRPERSON thanked Ambassador Kārklīņš for acting as coordinator thus far and urged delegations to pursue their consultations in the coming days with a view to reaching consensus before the closure of the Meeting.

PLAN OF ACTION TO PROMOTE THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE CONVENTION
(agenda item 8)

6. The CHAIRPERSON drew attention to a draft decision circulated on the universality of the Convention and the Sponsorship Programme, which read:

“1. The Meeting of the High Contracting Parties emphasized the importance of achieving universal adherence to and compliance with the Convention, as amended, and all its annexed Protocols. The Meeting, in particular, expressed its satisfaction at the steps undertaken for the implementation of the Plan of Action to promote universality of the

Convention and its annexed Protocols and the importance of achieving universal adherence to the Convention and its annexed Protocols. The Meeting urged all States, that have not yet done so, to become parties, as soon as possible, to the Convention, as amended, and its annexed Protocols, and that all States respect and ensure respect for the substantive provisions of these Protocols.

2. The Meeting also recommended that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as depositary of the Convention and its annexed Protocols, and the Chairperson, on behalf of the High Contracting Parties, exercise their authority to achieve the goal of universality of the Convention and its annexed Protocols. To this effect, the Meeting requested the Chairperson to consider reporting to the sixty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly on his endeavours.

3. The Meeting of the High Contracting Parties recognized the value and importance of the Sponsorship Programme within the framework of the Convention for strengthening the implementation of the Convention and its annexed Protocols; promoting universal observance of the norms and principles enshrined therein; supporting their universalization; enhancing the cooperation and exchange of information among the High Contracting Parties, and ensuring broader geographical representation at meetings of the Convention. The Meeting called upon the States, in a position to do so, to contribute to the Sponsorship Programme.”

The meeting was suspended at 4.25 p.m. and resumed at 4.35 p.m.

7. The CHAIRPERSON invited delegations to make preliminary comments on the draft decision.

8. Ms. ÜĞDÜL (Turkey) said that while she was in favour of the draft decision in principle, she had some difficulty with the wording of paragraph 1, which did not accurately reflect the spirit of the Convention. The universality of the Convention should not be equated with being party to all its protocols. She reserved the right to propose an amendment to paragraph 1 at a later stage in the Meeting.

9. The CHAIRPERSON said that the Meeting would continue its consideration of the draft decision at its next meeting.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.