
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

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Items 12 and 13 of the agenda

Review of the scope and operation of the Convention and its annexed protocols

Consideration of any proposal for the Convention and its existing Protocols

Promoting universality of the Convention and its Protocols

Submitted by the Implementation Support Unit*

I. Introduction

1. With 125 High Contracting Parties, universalization is a priority issue for the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). In recognition of this, at the Fifth Review Conference High Contracting Parties agreed to request the officeholders of the CCW, Protocol V and Amended Protocol II to promote universalization and report annually on their efforts and progress made in this area at the Meeting of High Contracting Parties. The Conference also agreed to encourage the High Contracting Parties to report on their universalization initiatives.¹

2. Under Amended Protocol II, each year the High Contracting Parties have issued an appeal, which "Urge[s] all States that have not yet done so to take all measures to accede to Amended Protocol II as soon as possible."

3. The resolution on the CCW of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly calls upon all States that have not yet done so to take all measures to become parties to the Convention and its Protocols. They also called upon all High Contracting Parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to express their consent to be bound by the Protocols to the Convention and the amendment expanding its scope of application.² It also acknowledges the continued efforts of the Secretary-General, as depositary of the Convention and of the officeholders.

4. To assist High Contracting Parties in preparing for the Sixth Review Conference, this report reflects the work undertaken on universalization of the CCW and its Protocols since the Fifth Review Conference.

* The present report was submitted after the deadline owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.

¹ CCW/CONF.V/10.

² A/RES/75/85.



II. Current status of universalization

5. Since January 2017, the following have joined instruments of the CCW:

2017:

Afghanistan: CCW, Protocols I, II, III, IV, V; Amendment to Article 1 of the Convention; Amended Protocol II

Benin: Amendment to Article 1 of the Convention

Lebanon: CCW; Protocols I, II, III; Amendment to Article 1 of the Convention; Amended Protocol II

State of Palestine: Protocol V

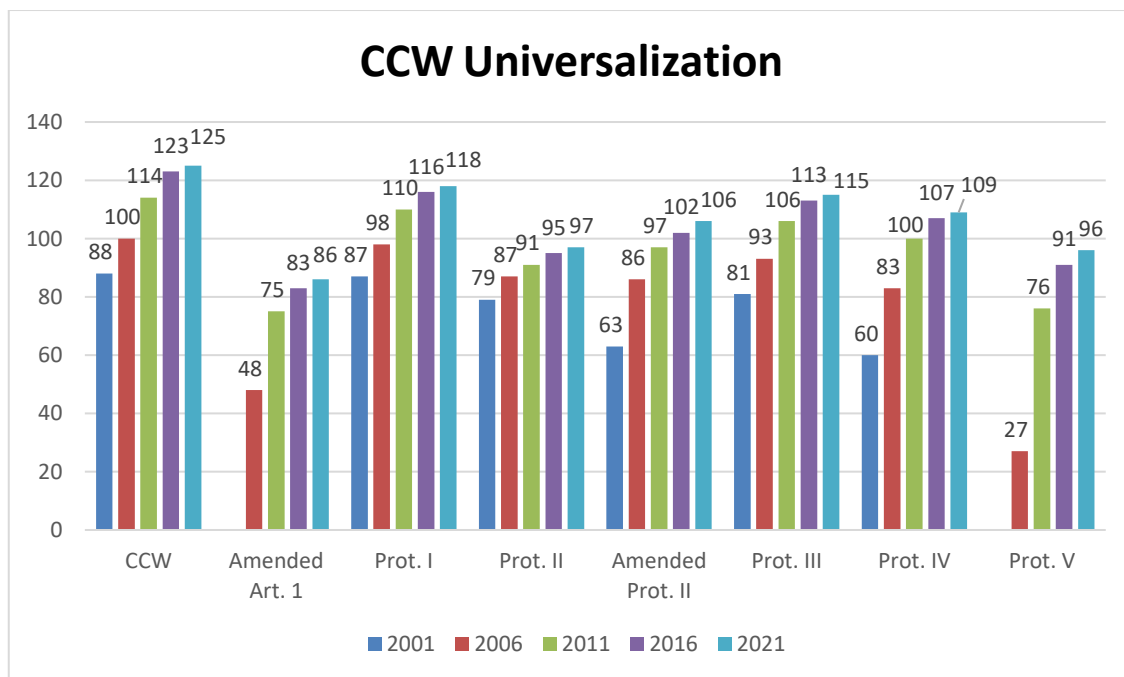
2018:

Mauritius: Amended Protocol II

2019:

Benin: Protocols IV and V; Amended Protocol II.

The following bar graph shows the progress made on universalization from the Second Review Conference in 2001 to December 2021.



III. Actions carried out on universalization from 2017 to 2021

6. Universalization of the CCW has been raised at the highest levels of the United Nations. In 2019, the Secretary-General sent a letter to all UN Member States not party to the Convention, stressing the importance of the CCW and encouraging those States to consider joining the Convention and its Protocols. The bilateral meetings of the current Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, and the former Director-General, Mr. Michael Møller, have also provided valuable opportunities to raise CCW. The CCW and its Protocols are included in the United Nations’

annual "Treaty Event", an event held in the margins of the General Assembly to encourage States to sign and accede to multilateral treaties.

7. During the past review cycle, the officeholders of the annual Meetings of High Contracting Parties to the CCW, Amended Protocol II and Protocol V have actively promoted the CCW and its Protocols. This included sending letters to CCW High Contracting Parties that have not joined the two Protocols, carrying out demarches in capitals and bilateral consultations.

8. The Fifth Review Conference acknowledged the invaluable contribution of the Sponsorship Programme to promote the universalization of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and expressed their appreciation for the administrative support provided by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining to the Programme (GICHD). Beneficiaries of the Sponsorship Programme that have not joined the Convention are briefed by the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Program's Steering Committee on the work of the CCW.

IV. Activities of the CCW Implementation Support Unit

9. The Fifth Review Conference requested the Implementation Support Unit to provide the necessary administrative and substantive support to the officeholders and High Contracting Parties in the area of universalization. During the past review cycle, the Implementation Support Unit supported the officeholders by drafting and sending messages to States not yet party, organizing and conducting research for bilateral meetings with such States, identifying key non-High Contracting Parties for targeted universalization and advising them on the effective approaches to universalization. The Unit also drafted messages and the 2019 letter by the United Nations Secretary General and prepared briefs and messages for other high-level United Nations officials. Further universalization activities of the Unit included providing non-High Contracting Parties interested in joining the Convention with the necessary information, inviting such States to CCW meetings, updating the CCW website and briefing visiting groups to the United Nations Office at Geneva and coordinating with Sponsorship Programme. The Implementation Support Unit also developed proposals and closely worked with the European Union for the Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/1694 in support of the Convention, one of whose pillars focuses on universalization.
