

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

21 September 2022

Original: English

Geneva, 16–18 November 2022

Item 12 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of the report of the CCW Sponsorship Programme

Report of the CCW Sponsorship Programme

Submitted by the Steering Committee of the Sponsorship Programme

I. Introduction

1. The CCW Sponsorship Programme was established by a decision of the High Contracting Parties at the Third Review Conference of the Convention.¹ The goals of the Sponsorship Programme are to strengthen the implementation of and respect for the Convention and its Protocols, and to promote its universalization. The Programme also aims to enhance cooperation, exchange of information and consultations among the High Contracting Parties.

2. In the final document of the Sixth Review Conference of the Convention, the High Contracting Parties solemnly declared “their acknowledgement of the invaluable contribution of the Sponsorship Programme to promote universalization and implementation of the Convention and its annexed Protocols”². Furthermore, the Sixth Review Conference of the Convention encouraged States in a position to do so to contribute to the Sponsorship Programme³.

3. This report covers the work of the Sponsorship Programme from 30 November 2021 to 14 September 2022.

4. Mr. Iassen Tomov from Bulgaria assumed the role as Coordinator of the Steering Committee in May 2022. The programme is supported by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), and all logistical and administrative issues are managed by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).

II. Activities of the CCW Sponsorship Programme

5. During the reporting period, the Sponsorship Programme financed the attendance of one representative from each of the following States:

- (a) Protocol V Meeting of Experts (22 July 2022): Albania;

¹ Decision 5 of the final document of the Third Review Conference of the Convention, CCW/CONF.III/11 and Annex IV, 7–17 November 2006.

² Paragraph 16 of the final document of the Sixth Review Conference of the Convention, CCW/CONF.VI/11, 13–17 December 2021.

³ Paragraph 32 of the final document of the Sixth Review Conference of the Convention, CCW/CONF.VI/11, 13–17 December 2021.



(b) Second session in 2022 of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) (25-29 July 2022): El Salvador, Kazakhstan, and Venezuela.

6. During the reporting period, the Sponsorship Programme also financed the attendance of the following experts, upon recommendations by respective officeholders:

(a) Amended Protocol II Group of Experts (20-21 July 2022): one expert each from the African Union, the Philippines and Niger;

(b) Protocol V Meeting of Experts (22 July 2022): one expert each from the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC), the Philippines and Niger.

7. The Sponsorship Programme provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen the implementation of the Convention and its annexed Protocols, by enriching and broadening the exchange of information and consultations among the High Contracting Parties.

III. Work of the Steering Committee

8. In accordance with the Steering Committee's decision taken in February 2018 to adopt a yearly planning cycle and selection of sponsored States, a consolidated call for voluntary applications for all CCW meetings to take place in 2022 was circulated on 05 May 2022 with a deadline for submissions by 20 May 2022, 10 am Geneva-time. The Steering Committee of the Sponsorship Programme met on 20 May 2022 in the afternoon to review the financial situation of the Programme. The Committee reached a decision on the sponsorship awardees during the 20 May 2022 meeting and through a silence procedure in June 2022. The usual criteria for prioritization were taken into account in the decision process of the Sponsorship Steering Committee.

IV. Financing of the CCW Sponsorship Programme

9. During the reporting period, the Sponsorship Programme benefitted from the contributions of China and Slovenia. The financial accounts for the Sponsorship Programme as of 14 September 2022 are attached to this report as an annex.

Annex

Financial situation of the CCW Sponsorship Programme

Table 1 - Accounts 2021 as of 31 December 2021 (CHF)

<i>2021</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Carry-over</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Remaining balance</i>
Travel costs	0			
Accommodation	0			
Per diem	0			
Bank charges	86			
Contributions				
China (correction contribution from 2020)			-1432	
China			8 155	
Slovenia			5 113	
Total	86	117 561	11 836	
Remaining balance 2021				129 311

Table 2 - Accounts 2022 as of 14 September 2022 (CHF)

<i>2022</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Carry-over from 2021</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Remaining balance</i>
Travel costs	14 072			
Accommodation	5 557			
Per diem	1 870			
Bank charges	46			
Contributions				
China			8 150	
Total	21 545	129 311	8 150	
Remaining balance 2022				115 916