

STATEMENT OF GEORGIA

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

Geneva, 14–18 November 2022

Mr. President,

Let me congratulate you on your appointment as President of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW and assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Georgia aligns itself with the statement [to be] delivered by the European Union. In addition, I would like to make following remarks in my national capacity.

Georgia stands in full solidarity with Ukraine and commends the people of Ukraine for their courage in defending their country against the unprovoked, unjustified and premeditated full scale aggression of the Russia which Georgia condemns in the strongest possible terms.

Russia's invasion of a sovereign country is a gross violation of international law, including the UN Charter, and it severely undermines European and global security and stability.

We call on Russia to respect the principles and obligations of International Humanitarian Law, including the CCW and to completely and without preconditions cease aggression, withdraw all its forces and armaments from the whole territory of Ukraine.

In this regard, Georgia expresses its serious concern about the growing number of reported breaches of IHL, including attacks on civilians and civilian objects, by the Russian Federation in Ukraine.

Mr. President,

Regrettably, it all leaves us with the feeling of *deja vu*, as it is an exact repetition of a scenario of Russia's invasion to Georgia in 2008. Because of Russian military aggression and occupation of Georgia's Tskhinvali Region, Explosive Remnants of War hazards affected not only the region where intense military actions took place, but also other densely populated areas of Georgia.

To address this issue, the Humanitarian Demining Control Division of the Ministry of Defence of Georgia conducts demining activities in the 2008 war affected areas in Georgia. As a result most of the mine and Explosive Remnants of War contaminated areas in the country have been cleared, however demining works are still ongoing. Furthermore, Russian controlled illegally occupied Georgian territories represent significant challenge with regard to the landmines with no international monitoring mechanism.

Mr. President,

Georgia has long-standing commitment to the CCW and its Protocol 5 and Amended protocol 2. The CCW is a unique international forum, which offers a flexible way to respond to new developments in weapons technologies and above all, to support the implementation of an essential part of International Humanitarian Law, which contributes to preventing and reducing the suffering of humans. We have to make sure that CCW continues to fulfill its mandate and remains responsive to new developments. In this regard, Georgia welcomes the work by the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS). In this context, we welcome the Philippines in the CCW Protocol V as its 97th High Contracting Party.

In addition, Georgia is also fully committed to mainstreaming a gender perspective into non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control work in line with Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council, including through promoting women's participation and providing integrated support where appropriate.

In conclusion, we attach high importance to the transparency and confidence building in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

To this end let me encourage the High Contracting Parties to reaffirm the significance of the CCW and make efforts towards the further universalization and steady implementation of its obligations.

I thank you