



**CHAIR
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
GENEVA CHAPTER**



MEETING OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS (CCW)

Geneva, 21 - 23 November 2018

General Statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons by the Delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Agenda Item 7: General exchange of views

Geneva, 21 November 2018

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the States Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and other States 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 (CCW).
2. NAM Group congratulates you, Ambassador Jānis Kārklīņš on your election as President of the 2018 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).
3. Our Group is confident that with your knowledge, experience and diplomatic skills you will be able to guide our work effectively towards a consensus outcome. The Group stands ready to engage constructively with you and other States Parties to bring this Meeting to a successful conclusion.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The Group would like to re-emphasize its position as reflected in the Final Document adopted at the XVII Summit of the NAM, which took place in September 2016, in Margarita Island, Venezuela.
5. The Group would further recall its position affirmed at the NAM Ministerial meeting held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, in April 2018.



CHAIR NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT GENEVA CHAPTER



6. NAM States Parties to the Convention on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) and its Protocols encouraged States to become parties to the Convention and its Protocols.
7. NAM States Parties to CCW welcome the accession of the State of Palestine and Mauritius, both NAM Members to Protocol V. In addition, the Group welcomes the accession of Mauritius as a State Party to the Amended Protocol II.
8. We strongly believe that the universal adherence to and further strengthening of the Convention will make a significant contribution to progressive development of the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict and advancing further in the field of disarmament on the basis of universal, multilateral, non-discriminatory and transparent negotiations with the goal of reaching general and complete disarmament under strict international control.
9. NAM remains concerned at the continuous erosion of multilateralism in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control. The Movement is determined to continue promoting multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in these areas and as the only sustainable approach to address these issues, in accordance with the UN Charter.
10. NAM notes that an importance principle of the Convention is to balance humanitarian concerns with the legitimate military utility and necessity of certain conventional weapons.
11. While resources for socio-economic development remain limited, more resources are devoted to the development of sophisticated and deadly conventional weapons that are used around the world which undermines international peace and security.
12. Paradoxically, some States that are leaders in the modernization, manufacture, use and commercialization of more advance conventional weapons try to impose international regulations to limit and hinder the acquisition and use, for purposes of self-defense, of certain types of less sophisticated conventional weapons, such as small arms and light weapons. We reject such double standards. The highest priority must be to control and limit the most sophisticated and destructive conventional weapons, which are the ones that cause the most innocent victims in modern wars.



CHAIR NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT GENEVA CHAPTER



Mr. Chairman,

13. During the 2018 Sessions of the Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems, the NAM Group engaged actively and constructively, including by presenting a Working Paper. Also we commend the manner in which the GGE was Chaired by a NAM representative, His Excellency, Ambassador Amandeep Singh Gill.
14. We acknowledge the recommendations included in the report. Furthermore, the NAM supports the continuation of the work of the Open-ended Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), in the context of the objectives and purposes of the Convention.
15. NAM would like to emphasize its hope that the GGE in 2019 will make progress towards the development of concrete recommendations including elements of a legally binding instrument stipulating prohibitions and regulations on LAWS.

Mr. Chairman,

16. Regarding Mines other than antipersonnel mines (MOTAPM), NAM considers that this issue has already been widely discussed and the divergences in positions are well known.

Mr. Chairman,

17. The NAM Group welcomes the decision on the Establishment of a Sponsorship Programme within the framework of the Convention, adopted by the Third CCW Review Conference, funded by voluntary contributions from States Parties, in order to support and increase the participation of developing States Parties in the meetings, in accordance with the basic goals identified on the aforementioned decision.
18. The Group of NAM express its deep concern on the continued lack of adequate representation from NAM countries in United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the movement requests the Secretary General and High Representative to undertake steps to ensure balanced and equitable representation in that office.



CHAIR NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT GENEVA CHAPTER



19. The Group deeply appreciates the excellent secretarial support provided by UNODA. The Group believes that it is important to retain the institutional memory of the Secretariat. The Group would like to receive additional clarification and official information on the following issues:

- a) Update on the situation of the ISU.
- b) Impact of UMOJA on the staffing and the operation of the ISU as well as the operation of the Convention and its meetings.
- c) The financial burden and its impact for States Parties contributions.

Mr. Chairman,

20. The Group of NAM and Other States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) look forward to engage constructively to consider and review proposals with a view to reach a consensual outcome.

I thank you.