



**Meeting of High Contracting Parties
to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons CCW
14-15 November 2013**

Statement by Ireland

Mr President,

As it is the first time that my delegation takes the floor under your chairmanship, allow me to congratulate you on your election. You may count on my delegation's full support for you in your tasks. I would also like to align my delegation with the statement delivered by the European Union and to add the following remarks.

Mr. President,

The right of parties to an armed conflict to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited. This fundamental rule of international humanitarian law inspired and guided the international community to adopt, implement and further develop the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its Protocols.

Having grown from the wish to ban or restrict the use of weapons that cause unnecessary or unjustifiable suffering or have indiscriminate effects. Further efforts to achieve the widest possible adherence to the Convention and all of its Protocols are vital; my delegation encourages those states that have yet to join the Convention and its Protocols to ratify or accede without delay. In this regard, my delegation warmly welcomes the accessions and ratifications by Kuwait and Zambia

Ireland has consistently supported and promoted the Convention since its adoption in 1980 as the first recourse in seeking to strike the appropriate balance between the requirements of humanity and military necessity demanded by International Humanitarian Law. We believe that States Parties should take action where necessary to ensure that the Convention adequately addresses all conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects.

In this context, we cannot ignore worrying reports of the use of anti personnel Landmines, cluster munitions and incendiary weapons on civilian populations in the present conflict in Syria

and elsewhere. We call on all parties to that conflict to fully comply international humanitarian law.

The framework provided by this Convention has evolved since 1980 in response to both changes in technology and to greater appreciation of the effects of the use of certain weapons. In this context, we believe that this framework provides a suitable forum in which to discuss emerging technologies and would support the commencement of discussion on the issue of lethal autonomous weapons systems at a more detailed level. This framework has proven that it can address emerging issues with regard to weapons, as it did with Protocol IV - and we should commence examination of this issue before such systems are deployed, beginning with a meeting of experts between now and the next Meeting of High Contracting Parties.

As we have heard earlier this week during the Seventh Conference on Protocol V, the effects of explosive remnants of war can persist for years and even decades after the cessation of hostilities and the place a significant burden on populations recovering from conflicts and hinder economic and social development.

The use of explosive weapons in populated areas can also have devastating impacts on civilians and is an area that requires further discussion to ensure the full application of IHL.

Mr. President,

My delegation shares the concerns of many delegations at the significant and ongoing humanitarian impact of mines other than anti personnel mines and looks forward to discussing this important topic during our meeting. We look forward to the presentation to be delivered by SIPRI later today on data gathered to date on MOTAPM and look forward to the publication of the final report early next year as an important contribution to the ongoing discussion in this forum on mines other than anti personnel mines.

This presentation and the side events organized and the interventions by our partners in civil society and international organizations during our deliberations are reminders of the important contribution that their expertise brings to our work

Thank you Mr. President