



PRESS RELEASE



Afghanistan Accession To The Convention On Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)

(August 14, 2016 - Kabul, Afghanistan): Afghanistan has completed all in house legal steps required for acceding the Convention on Certain Conventional weapons.

On July 30, the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) received from the Office of the President, Afghanistan's accession to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

On February 2, President of Afghanistan Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, ratified the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) through the Decree number 137. This convention had been passed by both houses of the National Assembly on January 5, 2015 through order number 135.

DMAC played an essential advocacy role in the accession process by providing essential information to Parliamentarians and relevant ministries.

The CCW consists of five Protocols that cover all the restrictions on the use of specific weapon systems. The first protocol in the Convention covers Non-Detectable Fragments which bans the usage of weapons that causes injuries by fragments that cannot be detected by X-rays and puts the individual into excessive suffering.

Protocol II provides restrictions on the utilization of landmine and booby traps. Protocol III prohibits the usage of incendiary weapons which causes burn injury by providing fire, heat or a combination of both. Protocol IV prohibits the usage of weapons that cause permanent blindness. Protocol V puts obligation on the parties that have used explosive weapons to set out the best strategies and clear the explosive remnants of war.⁽¹⁾

Jeffrey McMurdo, Programme Manager of the United Nation Mine Action Services (UNMAS), in commenting on the Afghanistan accession of the CCW said; "UNMAS applauds Afghanistan for endorsing the CCW and the adoption of all five protocols contained therein. This principled action demonstrates a commitment to rules which establish greater security for Afghan civilians in conflict situations. It also recognizes the state's responsibility for the removal of explosive remnants of war in areas it controls. UNMAS calls on all parties to the conflict to commit themselves to the implementation of the protocols and the protections these provide to civilians."

Based on paragraph two, Article Five, this Convention will enter into force six months after the date of the submission of the acceding document to the United Nations Secretary General.