



**Statement by Ms. Charlotte Skerten
DPR to the Conference on Disarmament**

**CCW: 2019 Meeting of High Contracting Parties
Statement on Protocol III: Incendiary Weapons**

14 November 2019

Thank you Mr Chair.

In the absence of a specific agenda item this year on Protocol III, New Zealand wishes to take this opportunity to discuss incendiary weapons at this juncture. We deeply regret the absence of a dedicated agenda item on Protocol III, which we continue to see as an essential component of the CCW, and call for this to be reinstated in the agenda for 2020.

The horrific consequences of the use of incendiary weapons for civilians are reason enough for us to remain seized of Protocol III. In addition, periodic allegations of their use – including in Syria – reinforce the need for this body to continue demonstrating the relevance and importance of Protocol III and our commitment to it, as well as to the broader prohibitions under IHL that relate to the use of incendiary weapons.

Mr Chair, New Zealand remains gravely concerned by reports of use of incendiary weapons. We condemn any use of incendiary weapons against civilians or civilian objects, and any other uses incompatible with relevant rules of IHL, including provisions of Protocol III where applicable. We expect to see this concern and condemnation reflected in the draft report of this meeting.

New Zealand has shared its views on the implementation and adequacy of Protocol III in previous meetings of the CCW and encourages other High Contracting Parties to do so too. If it would encourage interactivity, we would see merit in the convening of an informal meeting to discuss universalisation,

implementation and adequacy of Protocol III, given the very real humanitarian concerns that surround incendiary weapons. We emphasise, however, that such an informal meeting for interested Parties should not replace the opportunity provided by a formal agenda item on Protocol III.

Finally Mr Chair, we once again urge the universalisation and full implementation of Protocol III by all States.

NZ disarmament statements online, www.converge.org.nz/pma/nzdist.htm