

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)

2020 Amended Protocol II Group of Experts

Provisional Programme of Work

29 – 30 September 2020

Tuesday 29 September 2020, 10AM-1PM

Opening of the meeting

1. The President-designate, H. E. Ambassador Maria Teresa Almojuela of the Philippines, will open the 2020 Group of Experts meeting and outline the Programme of Work. The mandate of the Group of Experts is set out in the decisions¹ taken at last year's 21st Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II.

Universalization

2. The President-designate will provide an update on universalization efforts carried out to date. Delegations may wish to brief the Group on their efforts to promote the universalization of Amended Protocol II at the regional, sub-regional and national levels.

Operation and status of the Protocol

3. In line with the decisions taken at the 21st Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II², the Group of Experts shall review the operation and status of the Protocol and consider matters arising from the national annual reports, as well as consider measures to increase the rate of national reporting and consistency of the current reporting methodology in the framework of Amended Protocol II.

The President-designate will inform about the implementation of the obligation to submit national annual reports by High Contracting Parties.

High Contracting Parties will be invited to discuss measures to increase the rate of national reporting and consistency of the current reporting methodology in the framework of Amended Protocol II.

High Contracting Parties which have an interest in sharing information on other matters relevant to the implementation of the Protocol are encouraged to do so during the session.

¹ [CCW/APII/CONF.21/5](#)

² CCW/APII/CONF.21/5, paragraph 34

Improvised Explosive Devices (IED)

4. The Coordinators, Ms. Diana Esperanza Castillo Castro (Colombia) and Colonel Pascal Levant (France), will open the discussion on IED and outline their plans in accordance with the decisions³ taken at the 21st Annual Conference.

Following the opening there will be a brief general exchange of views on IEDs, focusing on exploring the impact of the IED threat and its humanitarian dimension.

Delegations are welcome to share their general views on the IED threat and to provide national updates on the issue.

5. Setting the scene: new types of IED

(c) The Group of Experts will, in accordance with the objectives and purposes of the Convention, continue exchange of information, on a voluntary basis and subject to national policies on the protection of sensitive information, on national measures, reporting methodologies, best practices and lessons learned on the following topics:

(i) New types of IED, including trigger mechanisms, new components used as main charge and detonators;

A panel discussion will set the scene.

After the panel discussions, delegations are encouraged to exchange information on item (i). By doing so, delegations are invited to address the following guiding questions in their interventions:

- With which new types of IED have you been confronted?
- Are there new types of trigger mechanisms that you could observe?
- What are the types of main charges and detonators found in your country and are similar types found across neighboring countries? Are there new precursors and other device materials entering your territory that were not seen a year ago? If yes, were you able to observe how these new components have been acquired or have entered your territory?
- How is the information on new types of IED managed in your context?

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6. Methods of Clearance

(c) The Group of Experts will, in accordance with the objectives and purposes of the Convention, continue exchange of information, on a voluntary basis and subject to national

³ CCW/APII/CONF.21/5, paragraph 35

policies on the protection of sensitive information, on national measures, reporting methodologies, best practices and lessons learned on the following topics:

(ii) Methods of clearance of IED, with a particular focus on urban environments, as well as technical innovations and new means for clearance of IED as part of humanitarian action;

A panel discussion will be held.

After the panel discussions, delegations are encouraged to exchange information on item (ii). By doing so, delegations are invited to address the following guiding questions in their interventions:

- What challenges do you encounter with regard to clearance of IED in general and in particular with regard to urban environments?
- How are you adjusting clearance operations to overcome these challenges?
- Are there any noteworthy technical innovations or new means of clearance that can be observed in your context?

7. Questionnaire on Counter-IED

(d) With respect to the questionnaire on Counter-IED, the High Contracting Parties request the Coordinators to review and revise the original questionnaire on Counter-IED, in consultation with the Implementation Support Unit and the High Contracting Parties. The Coordinators are requested to present to the Group of Experts the proposed revisions and to seek the Group's approval of the revised questionnaire.

The Coordinators will present the proposed revisions to the Counter-IED questionnaire. Delegations will be invited to provide comments to the envisaged revisions.

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8. Protection of Civilians: risk education and other methods

(b) With a view to ultimately compiling guidelines based on existing best practices, recommendations and lessons learned on methods to educate civilians to the risk posed by IED, the Group of Experts will continue its voluntary information exchange on IED risk education methods, campaigns or practices;

(c) The Group of Experts will, in accordance with the objectives and purposes of the Convention, continue exchange of information, on a voluntary basis and subject to national policies on the protection of sensitive information, on national measures, reporting methodologies, best practices and lessons learned on the following topics:

(iii) Methods to protect civilians from IED;

A panel discussion will set the conceptual framework for the deliberations on IED risk education and other methods to protect civilians from IED.

After the panel discussions, delegations are encouraged to report on national, regional or international IED risk education methods, campaigns or practices and any other measures undertaken to protect civilians from IED.

By doing so, delegations are invited to address the following guiding questions:

- What IED risk education methods, campaigns or practices are being applied in your context in order to raise awareness among the population on the threat?
- How are these risk education efforts being carried out?
- What other methods, besides risk education, are you carrying out to protect civilians from IED?
- Are there any novelties in the way you try to make your constituencies aware of the IED threat? Are there any best practices that you can share?
- Do you have any indications that the IED risk education methods, campaigns or practices carried out led to an increase in detected devices? Did these measures decrease the number of casualties among the civilian population? If yes, which measured proved to be most effective?

9. Relevant developments in other fora

(f) With respect to other fora addressing the threat posed by IED, the Group of Experts will keep apprised of the relevant developments in their activities, with a view to ensuring complementarity of efforts.

Delegations are also invited to provide any other updates on relevant developments in other fora addressing the threat posed by IED.

Closing of the meeting

10. The President-designate, H. E. Ambassador Almojuela, will wrap up the work of the Group and will outline her plans for the Twenty-second Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II on 10 November 2020. The IED Coordinators, Ms. Diana Esperanza Castillo Castro (Colombia) and Colonel Pascal Levant (France), will also be invited to provide any updates with regard to the mandate on IED they plan to suggest to High Contracting Parties for 2021.

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