

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)

2021 Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) Meeting of Experts

Provisional Programme of Work

18 August 2021, 10H00 to 18H00 (Room XVIII)

1. Opening of the meeting

- 1.1. The President-designate of the 15th Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, Mr. Angus September, Counsellor: Disarmament, South African Permanent Mission in Geneva, will outline the Programme of Work. The meeting will build on the work of the 13th Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the 14th Conference of High Contracting Parties only adopted technical decisions in April 2021.

2. Universalization

- 2.1. The President-designate will provide an overview on intended universalization efforts. High Contracting Parties or interested organizations may wish to brief the Meeting on their efforts to promote the universalization of Protocol V at the regional, sub-regional and national levels.

3. National Reporting

- 3.1. The Presidency and the Secretariat will provide an update on the implementation of the obligation to submit national annual reports by High Contracting Parties.
- 3.2. High Contracting Parties will be invited to discuss measures to increase the rate of national reporting and consider measures to improve the current methodology in the framework of Protocol V.
- 3.3. High Contracting Parties, which have an interest in sharing information on other matter relevant to the implementation of the Protocol, are encouraged to do so during this session.

4. Article 4 on recording, retaining and transmission of information and generic preventative measures.

- 4.1. Delegations are encouraged to consider the following guiding questions during their intervention:
 - 4.1.1. Are there any national best practices you can share with regard to the recording, retaining and transmission of information on remaining explosive ordnance after the cessation of active hostilities to parties controlling the affected areas?
 - 4.1.2. Are there measures which have proved to be most effective?

5. Thematic Session 1 – Clearance of explosive remnant of war and Technical Assistance

5.1. A panel discussion, chaired by Mr. Muhammad Omar of Pakistan, the coordinator on Clearance and Technical Assistance, will initiate the discussion. After the panel discussions, delegations are encouraged to respond to the following set of questions during their interventions:

5.1.1. What are the main challenges you encounter with regard to the clearance of ERW?

5.1.2. Are there any novelties in terms of technical innovations or new means of clearance to overcome these challenges?

5.1.3. Are there any lessons learned or best practices that you could share?

5.2. High Contracting Parties are encouraged to report on a voluntary basis on their readiness to contribute to facilitating the marking and clearance, removal or destruction of ERW. Such States may also wish to speak on how they determine the priority areas to be cleared and the challenges they have encountered in providing assistance with clearance operations.

6. Thematic Session 2 – Victim Assistance

6.1. A panel discussion, chaired by Mr. Christoph Sternat, of Austria, the coordinator on Victim Assistance will initiate the discussion. After the panel discussions, there will be an opportunity for delegations to exchange information and experiences on the implementation of the commitments on victim assistance at the national and community levels, to provide updates on the latest approaches and innovations in the field of victim assistance and to exchange practical experiences and lessons learned with other relevant legal instruments and fora. Delegations are encouraged to respond to the following set of questions during their interventions:

6.1.1. What preventative actions, e.g. risk education campaigns, are carried out to protect civilians from ERW? Are their lessons learned and/or best practices you can share? Which measures proved to be most effective?

6.1.2. Are there any new approaches and/or innovations in the way you are providing victim assistance?

7. Closing of the meeting

7.1. The President-designate will conclude the work of the Meeting and will outline his plans for the 15th Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on 9 December 2021.