Opening of the meeting

1. The President-designate, H.E. Ambassador Mr. Yuri Sterk of Bulgaria, will open the 2022 Group of Experts meeting and outline the Programme of Work.

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

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.

High Contracting Parties which have an interest in sharing information on other matters relevant to the Protocol and its implementation are encouraged to do so under this item.

Wednesday 20 July, 3PM – 6PM

Improvised Explosive Devices (IED)

4. The Coordinators, Ms. Diana Esperanza Castillo Castro (Colombia) and Colonel Pascal Levant (France), will open the discussion on IED.

Following the opening there will be a brief general exchange of views on IEDs. Delegations are welcome to share their general views on the IED threat and to provide national updates on the issue.
5. **Setting the scene: The threat of IED and new types of IED**

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 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 this topic. 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?
- Have you been confronted with new components used as main charge and detonators or new types of trigger mechanisms?
- Is there information on 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?
- What is the most up to date data on gendered patterns in IED casualties and fatality rates?
- How does the problem of IED affect people of different ages and genders? (including short-, medium- and longer-term impacts, such as psychological trauma, stigma, as well as economic impacts).

6. **Methods of Clearance**

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 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 the item. By doing so, delegations are invited to address the following guiding questions in their interventions:
• Are there any noteworthy technical innovations or new means of clearance that have been employed on your territory or by clearance operations under your responsibility?

• What challenges do you encounter with regard to clearance of IED? What challenges do you encounter specifically in urban environments?

• Have you identified good practices or lessons learned regarding the involvement of women in the efforts of clearance of IED?

Thursday 21 July 2022, 10AM – 1PM

7. Protection of Civilians: risk education and other methods

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.

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 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 and what other methods 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?

• Have you identified good practices or lessons learned regarding the involvement of women in IED risk education and other methods to protect civilians from IED?
• What are the best practices in terms of tailoring IED risk education methods, campaigns and practices to ensure that they are age- and gender-sensitive? Can you share specific examples of initiatives in this regard?

8. Relevant developments in other fora

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 and awareness raising on topics such as methods to prevent the diversion of precursors, ammunition, explosives and components that may be used for the manufacture of IED.

Delegations are also invited to provide any other updates on relevant developments in other fora addressing the threat posed by IED. By doing so, delegations are invited to address the following guiding questions:

• Do you have any good practices or lessons learned regarding the efforts to address the threat posed by IED in other fora?

• Do you have any good practices or lessons learned regarding the active promotion of a balanced involvement of women and men in any effort to address the threat posed by IED in other fora?

• How can work on IEDs advance the goals of the WPS agenda – and vice versa?

• What are the best practices on gender mainstreaming in the field of IEDs? What are the main challenges?

• What practical measures can be taken to integrate the WPS agenda into the work of the GoE on IEDs – and vice versa?

Thursday 21 July 2022, 3PM – 6PM

9. National and regional responses

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 development and consolidation of coherent and coordinated national and regional responses to counter the threat posed by IED;

A panel discussion will be held.

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

• What are the best practices in terms of development and consolidation of coherent and coordinated national and regional responses to counter the threat posed by IED?
• What are the gaps and challenges in national/regional regulation and preparedness regarding IED?

• Has your country used or is planning to use in the near future, to self-assess its capacities, the C-IED Self-Assessment Tool (C-IED SAT) developed by the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)?

• Does your country carry out national/international workshops, seminars, conferences, or training events on C-IED efforts that are open to international participants?

Any Other business

Closing of the meeting

10. The President-designate, H.E. Ambassador Mr. Yuri Sterk of Bulgaria will wrap up the work of the Group and will outline his plans for the Twenty-fourth Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II on 15 November 2022.

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