

# Thirteenth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

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## Final document

### I. Introduction

1. Article 10 (1) and (2) of Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) states the following:

"1. The High Contracting Parties undertake to consult and co-operate with each other on all issues related to the operation of this Protocol. For this purpose, a Conference of High Contracting Parties shall be held as agreed to by a majority, but no less than eighteen High Contracting Parties.

2. The work of the conferences of High Contracting Parties shall include:

- (a) Review of the status and operation of this Protocol;
- (b) Consideration of matters pertaining to national implementation of this Protocol, including national reporting or updating on an annual basis;
- (c) Preparation for review conferences."

2. The First Conference of the High Contracting Parties decided, as stipulated in paragraph 38 of its final document (CCW/P.V/CONF/2007/1), to establish a mechanism for consultation and cooperation under Protocol V, consisting of informal meetings of experts, chaired by Coordinators, on issues relevant to the implementation of the Protocol.

3. The First Conference also decided, as stipulated in paragraph 42 of its final document (CCW/P.V/CONF/2007/1) that the work of the Meetings of Experts shall be considered by the Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to be held annually.

4. The Fifth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, CCW/CONF.V/10, encouraged the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V to "continue with their efforts to encourage a higher rate of national reporting, including through the consideration of an appropriate mechanism; to convene an Article 4 workshop to consider in-depth the clearance of explosive remnants of war and generic preventive measures; and to prioritize the work on cooperation and assistance and victim assistance".

5. The Twelfth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V decided, as stipulated in paragraph 35 of its final document (CCW/P.V/CONF/2018/5), that to progress universalization of the Protocol, the Meeting of Experts should consider the issue of the universalization of Protocol V, under the overall responsibility of the President-designate of the Thirteenth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V.

6. The Twelfth Conference also recommended, as stipulated in paragraph 25 of its final document (CCW/P.V/CONF/2018/5), that the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President-designate of the Thirteenth Conference, on behalf of the High Contracting Parties, exercise their authority to achieve the goal of universality of Protocol V. The



Conference also called on the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs to promote wider adherence to Protocol V.

7. The Twelfth Conference also decided that in 2019 work under Protocol V is to focus on article 4 of the Protocol on “Recording, retaining and transmission of information” (CCW/P.V/CONF/2018/5, paragraph 27), national reporting (CCW/P.V/CONF/2018/5, paragraph 30) and victim assistance (CCW/P.V/CONF/2018/5, paragraph 32).

8. The Twelfth Conference also decided in paragraph 38 of its final document (CCW/P.V/CONF/2018/5), to nominate Ambassador Terhi Hakala of Finland as President-designate of the Thirteenth Conference, and Ambassador Yury Ambrazevich of Belarus and a representative of the Non-Aligned Movement as Vice-Presidents-designates.

9. The Thirteenth Conference for Protocol V was prepared for by a Meeting of Experts, which took place on 23 August 2019 in Geneva, as decided by the Twelfth Conference in paragraph 33 of its final document (CCW/P.V/CONF/2018/5).

## **II. Participation in the Thirteenth Conference**

10. The Thirteenth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) was convened on 11 November 2019 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

11. The following High Contracting Parties to Protocol V participated in the work of the Conference: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, India, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America and Uruguay.

12. The following High Contracting Parties to the Convention participated in the work of the Conference as observers: Colombia, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

13. The following Signatory State to the Convention participated in the work of the Conference as observer: Egypt.

14. The following States participated in the work of the Conference as observers: Mozambique, Myanmar and Oman.

15. The representatives of the following organizations took part in the work of the Conference as observers: United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), European Union, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

16. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations and other entities also took part in the work of the Conference as observers: Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, Center for International Security and Policy (CISP), Human Rights Watch and the Mines Advisory Group (MAG).

## **III. Work of the Thirteenth Conference**

17. The Thirteenth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War was opened on 11 November 2019 by Ambassador Hussain Mahmood Alkhateeb of Iraq, as representative of the President of the Twelfth Conference, who presided over the election of Ambassador Terhi Hakala of Finland as President of the Thirteenth Conference.

18. The Conference held two plenary meetings. At its first plenary meeting, the Conference also elected Ambassador Yury Ambrazevich of Belarus and Mr. Côme Damien Georges Awoumou, Minister Counsellor, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Cameroon, as Vice-Presidents.

19. At the same plenary meeting, the Conference adopted its agenda, as contained in CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/1. In confirming its Rules of Procedure, as contained in CCW/P.V/CONF/2013/10, the Conference decided to suspend Rule 2, in accordance with paragraph 42 of the final document of the Seventh Conference.

20. The Conference confirmed the nomination of Ms. Anja Kaspersen, Director of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) Geneva Branch, as Secretary-General of the Conference. Ms. Melanie Gerber, Political Affairs Officer, UNODA Geneva Branch, served as Secretary.

21. During the course of the meeting the Conference considered documents CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/1 to CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/5. The documents of the Conference are available in all official languages through the Official Document System of the United Nations at <https://documents.un.org>, and the website of the CCW Protocol V at <http://www.unog.ch/ccw>.

22. The following delegations participated in the general exchange of views: Afghanistan, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Chile, China, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, European Union, Germany, India, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Montenegro, Netherlands, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United States of America, the United Nations Inter-agency Group on Mine Action and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

23. The Conference heard a report by the President on efforts undertaken to promote the universalization of Protocol V.

24. The Conference also considered a report by the President on the 2019 Meeting of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V (CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/2), reflecting the discussions held on national reporting, clearance of explosive remnants of war, Article 4 on "Recording, retaining and transmission of information" and Article 8 on Co-operation and assistance.

25. Pursuant to the decision by the First Conference to establish a database on Protocol V, in accordance with its Article 10 (2) (b), consisting of the national reports, annual or immediate updates of the national reports, and/or summary cover pages, if applicable, on matters pertaining to the implementation of Protocol V, as stipulated in paragraphs 24 to 28 of its final document (CCW/P.V/CONF/2007/1), the Conference had before it national annual reports from the following High Contracting Parties: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, India, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America.

## **IV. Conclusions and recommendations**

### **A. Universalization**

26. The Thirteenth Conference welcomed that since the Twelfth Conference, Benin had consented to be bound by Protocol V. The Thirteenth Conference also welcomed the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the Thirteenth Conference, organizations and the CCW Sponsorship Programme to promote the universalization of Protocol V.

27. The Conference recommended that the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President-designate of the Fourteenth Conference, on behalf of the High Contracting Parties, exercise their authority to achieve the goal of universality of Protocol V.

28. The Conference called on all States that have not yet done so to consider consenting to be bound by Protocol V. The Conference also called on the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V and the Implementation Support Unit to promote wider adherence to Protocol V. The Thirteenth Conference also decided that the 2020 Meeting of Experts should consider the issue of the universalization of Protocol V under the overall responsibility of the President-designate of the Fourteenth Conference.

## **B. Article 4 of the Protocol on "Recording, retaining and transmission of information"**

29. The Conference took note of the report by the President on the 2019 Meeting of Experts (CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/2), covering the discussions held on Article 4 implementation.

30. The Conference decided that under the overall responsibility of the President-designate, High Contracting Parties should, on a voluntary basis and subject to national policies on the protection of sensitive information, continue to share national best practices on the implementation of Article 4 and generic preventive measures following also the guidance provided in the Technical Annex of the Protocol. The Conference requests that these compilations of national best practices be made available on the website of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) so that they are available to inform future consideration of the implementation of Article 4.

## **C. National Reporting**

31. The Conference took note of the report by the President on national reporting, as contained in CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/2.

32. The Conference decided that, under the overall responsibility of the President-designate, High Contracting Parties are to continue with their efforts to encourage a higher rate of national reporting, including but not limited to the implementation of the measures adopted at the Eleventh Annual Conference (CCW/P.V/2017/5, paragraph 27). High Contracting Parties are also encouraged to consider measures to improve reporting methodology.

## **D. Victim assistance**

33. The Conference took note of the report by the President on victim assistance, as contained in CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/2.

34. The Conference decided:

(a) To encourage all High Contracting Parties to promote the work of Protocol V on victim assistance and in particular the Plan of Action on Victim Assistance;

(b) To encourage High Contracting Parties affected by explosive remnants of war to implement Article 8(2) of the Protocol and the Plan of Action on Victim Assistance, and to report on these actions in Form E(a) of the national annual report;

(c) The Meeting of Experts should give particular focus to the exchange of information and experiences on implementation of the commitments on victim assistance at the national and community levels; to updates on the latest approaches and innovations in the field of victim assistance; and to exchanges of practical experiences and lessons learned with other relevant legal instruments and fora;

(d) Pursuant to the implementation mechanism established at the first Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V (CCW/P.V/CONF/2007/1, paragraph 38) and

established practice, the Conference decided to nominate a Coordinator on Victim Assistance, to be identified by the President-designate of the Fourteenth Conference as soon as possible, to prepare and chair relevant work of the 2020 Meeting of Experts and to report back to the Fourteenth Annual Conference. The nomination will not incur any additional financial costs to High Contracting Parties.

## **E. Clearance of explosive remnants of war**

35. The Conference took note of the report by the President on clearance of explosive remnants of war, as contained in CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/2.

36. The Conference decided:

(a) Pursuant to the implementation mechanism established at the first Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V (CCW/P.V/CONF/2007/1, paragraph 38) and established practice, the Conference decided to nominate a Coordinator on clearance and technical assistance, to be identified by the President-designate of the Fourteenth Annual Conference as soon as possible, to prepare and chair relevant work of the 2020 Meeting of Experts and to report back to the Fourteenth Conference. The nomination will not incur any additional financial costs to High Contracting Parties;

(b) The Meeting of Experts should, under the overall responsibility of the Coordinator on clearance and technical assistance, exchange information on a voluntary basis on methods of clearance of ERW.

## **F. Follow-up**

37. The Conference decided that the 2020 Meeting of Experts will be for a duration of up to one-and-a-half days at dates to be decided by the 2019 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, to be held from 13 to 15 November 2019.

38. The Conference decided that the Meeting of Experts should especially focus on the following issues, at the discretion of the President-designate of the Fourteenth Conference:

(a) Article 4 of the Protocol under the overall responsibility of the President-designate of the Fourteenth Conference;

(b) National reporting under the overall responsibility of the President-designate of the Fourteenth Conference;

(c) Victim assistance under the overall responsibility of the Coordinator on victim assistance;

(d) Clearance of explosive remnants of war under the overall responsibility of the Coordinator on clearance and technical assistance.

39. The Conference encouraged High Contracting Parties in a position to do so to provide technical assistance to the High Contracting Parties in need of support.

40. The Conference decided to nominate Ambassador Yury Ambrazevich of Belarus as President-designate of the Fourteenth Conference, and a representative of the Western European and Others Group and a representative of the Non-Aligned Movement as Vice-Presidents-designates.

41. The Conference considered and approved a provisional agenda of the Fourteenth Conference, as contained in Annex I. The Conference adopted the estimated costs of the 2020 Meeting of Experts and Fourteenth Conference, contained in CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/3, to be reissued as document CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/3/Rev.1, and CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/4 respectively.

42. At its second plenary meeting, the Thirteenth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War adopted its final document as contained in CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/CRP.1, as orally amended, which is being issued as document CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/5.

## **Annex I**

### **Provisional agenda of the Fourteenth Conference**

#### **Submitted by the Thirteenth Conference**

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of the President
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Confirmation of the rules of procedure
5. Appointment of the Secretary-General of the Conference
6. Organization of work including that of any subsidiary bodies of the Conference
7. Election of other officers of the Conference
8. General exchange of views
9. Review of the status and operation of the Protocol
10. Consideration of matters pertaining to national implementation of the Protocol, including national reporting or updating on an annual basis
11. Preparation for review conferences
12. Report(s) of any subsidiary organ(s)
13. Adoption of the cost estimates for 2021
14. Other matters
15. Consideration and adoption of the final document.

## Annex II

### List of High Contracting Parties which have notified the Depositary of their consent to be bound by Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War

<i>High Contracting Parties</i>	<i>Date of notification of consent to be bound</i>
Afghanistan	9 August 2017
Albania	12 May 2006
Argentina	7 October 2011
Australia	4 January 2007
Austria	1 October 2007
Bahrain	11 March 2016
Bangladesh	26 September 2013
Belarus	29 September 2008
Belgium	25 January 2010
Benin	27 September 2019
Bosnia and Herzegovina	28 November 2007
Brazil	30 November 2010
Bulgaria	7 November 2005
Burkina Faso	10 October 2016
Burundi	13 July 2012
Cameroon	7 December 2010
Canada	19 May 2009
Chile	18 August 2009
China	10 June 2010
Costa Rica	27 April 2009
Côte d'Ivoire	25 May 2016
Croatia	7 February 2005
Cuba	14 November 2012
Cyprus	11 March 2010
Czech Republic	6 June 2006
Denmark	28 June 2005
Dominican Republic	21 June 2010
Ecuador	10 March 2009
El Salvador	23 March 2006
Estonia	18 December 2006
Finland	23 March 2005
France	31 October 2006
Gabon	22 September 2010

<i>High Contracting Parties</i>	<i>Date of notification of consent to be bound</i>
Georgia	22 December 2008
Germany	3 March 2005
Greece	21 October 2014
Grenada	10 December 2014
Guatemala	28 February 2008
Guinea-Bissau	6 August 2008
Holy See	13 December 2005
Honduras	16 August 2010
Hungary	13 November 2006
Iceland	22 August 2008
India	18 May 2005
Iraq	24 September 2014
Ireland	8 November 2006
Italy	11 February 2010
Jamaica	25 September 2008
Kuwait	24 May 2013
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2 February 2012
Latvia	16 September 2009
Lesotho	5 April 2016
Liberia	16 September 2005
Liechtenstein	12 May 2006
Lithuania	29 September 2004
Luxembourg	13 June 2005
Madagascar	14 March 2008
Mali	24 April 2009
Malta	22 September 2006
Mauritius	2 November 2018
Montenegro	20 May 2016
Netherlands	18 July 2005
New Zealand	2 October 2007
Nicaragua	15 September 2005
North Macedonia	19 March 2007
Norway	8 December 2005
Pakistan	3 February 2009
Panama	29 November 2010
Paraguay	3 December 2008
Peru	29 May 2009



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<i>High Contracting Parties</i>	<i>Date of notification of consent to be bound</i>
Poland	26 September 2011
Portugal	22 February 2008
Qatar	16 November 2009
Republic of Korea	23 January 2008
Republic of Moldova	21 April 2008
Romania	29 January 2008
Russian Federation	21 July 2008
Saudi Arabia	8 January 2010
Senegal	6 November 2008
Sierra Leone	30 September 2004
Slovakia	23 March 2006
Slovenia	22 February 2007
South Africa	24 January 2012
Spain	9 February 2007
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	6 December 2010
State of Palestine	29 December 2017
Sweden	2 June 2004
Switzerland	12 May 2006
Tajikistan	18 May 2006
Tunisia	7 March 2008
Turkmenistan	23 July 2012
Ukraine	17 May 2005
United Arab Emirates	26 February 2009
United States of America	21 January 2009
Uruguay	7 August 2007
Zambia	25 September 2013

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**Annex III****List of documents**

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/1	Provisional agenda
CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/2	Report on the 2019 Meeting of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V
CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/3	Estimated Costs for the 2020 Meeting of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V
CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/3/Rev.1	Revised Estimated Costs for the 2020 Meeting of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V
CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/4	Estimated Costs for the 2020 Fourteenth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V
CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/5	Final document
CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/CRP.1	Draft final document
CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/INF.1	List of participants
CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/MISC.1	Provisional list of participants
CCW/P.V/CONF/2019/SR.2	Summary record of the 2nd meeting

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