Our work on Generic Preventive measures is based on Article 9 and the Technical Annex of Protocol V. The objective of these provisions is to reduce the occurrence of ERW during armed conflict and include guidance on the manufacturing of munitions, testing, storage, transportation, field storage, handling, training for personnel involved in the handling and use of munitions, and future production and procurement of munitions.

In 2014 and again this year, we are focusing on the management of munitions sites. To assist States with focusing their interventions I have posed questions that address basic matters such as who is responsible for the management of munitions sites? What records are kept of those who enter such sites? Such basic measures can make an enormous difference to the management of munitions and ultimately to preventing ERW from occurring.

On the other hand poor management practices may cause the quality of stored ordnance to deteriorate, which will lead to an increase in explosive remnants of war during armed conflicts.

There are many other adverse consequences arising from deficiencies in the management of munitions storage sites that should be of serious concern to Protocol V High Contracting Parties. The first and most obvious of these is safety, and protecting both workers at such sites and the population who live and work close to such sites. Another important issue is security of munitions. Poorly secured stockpiles of weapons and munitions can have a serious destabilizing impact in the State itself and throughout the region.

I look forward to hearing your contributions to our discussion tomorrow and to further developing our work in this framework on generic preventive measures.