Montenegro

Expert Meeting of the States Parties to the Protocol V to the CCW

Mr. Chairman,

We share the view expressed by many that implementation of the Protocol V is crucial, in order to minimize the danger and humanitarian post-conflict impact to civilians caused by ERW, including unexploded cluster munitions. We find the common efforts by States to ratify and subsequently universalize the Protocol V as indicator of the strong and credible CCW regime that effectively ensure the ban or limitations on the use of inhumane weapons. Aware of importance of achieving the objectives set in Protocol V, we believe that efforts must be continued for universalization and effective implementation of this Protocol.

The Government of Montenegro is already carrying out activities in compliance with the aims and principals set out in the Protocol V, especially concerning the examinations of the territory, findings and clearance of unexploded ordnance, disabling and destruction of all types of unexploded ordnance, as well as securing the sites. However, all previous activities were conducted without adequate protective equipment and technical resources for transportation, searching and destruction of unexploded ordnance. In addition to these limiting factors for the performance of mentioned activities, we also lack adequate warehouses and storage space for the disposal of these assets prior to their destruction.

Ministry of interior of Montenegro, in charge for conducting these activities, is making strong efforts in order to investigate and clear contaminated territories. To that end, every year approximately 10 tones of unexploded explosive devices (UXO) residual from the World War I and II were collected. But, due to the lack of resources and adequate equipment, examination of the ground and gathering of UXO is conducted only on invitation or report of citizens who found it.

Planned activities in connection to the examination of suspicious terrains have not been conducted due to lack of the following equipment for investigation of the field and safe transportation: metal detectors and protective equipment, special vehicle with trailer, metal detector, and sets of working uniforms. In that regard, Montenegro would highly appreciate any assistance in obtaining abovementioned equipment as well as conducting activities related to examination, collection and destruction of UXO.

According to the information that competent authorities of Montenegro possess, there are number of known locations to be contaminated by UXO from the World War I and II, and there are much more to be examined. Contaminated areas include river flows and the
ground (information on confirmed contaminated areas could be forwarded to all interested parties). Also, one of the main problems recognized by the Ministry of Defence is the state of ammunition from the World War II, which was placed at the depth of 30 to 40 meters by the detonation at the peninsula Lustica. It is believed that this ammunition is highly unstable.

Due to the lack of financial recourses and adequate equipment, all activities on this site were suspended. In that regard, Montenegro calls for any assistance that could be provided in order to resolve this problem which poses security and ecological risk for the citizens of this area.

Although Montenegro has not yet ratified the Protocol V, the Government of Montenegro strongly support adherence to this International Agreement, and we hope to be in a position to ratify the protocol V and deposit our instrument of consent to be bound as soon as possible. In that regard, Montenegro looks forward to participating in the work of this Protocol as a state party.