PROGRAMME OF WORK

Thursday, 7 April 2016
15.00 – 18.00
• Opening of the meeting
• Universalization
• Operation and status of the Protocol
• Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs):
  o Introduction
  o General exchange of views
  o Compilation of existing guidelines and best practices aiming at addressing the diversion of illicit use of materials that can be used for IEDs
  o Information exchange on national measures and best practices on:
    ▪ Supporting measures to prevent the diversion of explosives for use in IED
    ▪ Enhancing information sharing on detection and counter measures techniques

Friday, 8 April 2016
10.00 – 13.00
• IEDs (cont’d):
  o Discussion on the possibility of a database, portal or platform to improve information sharing on the diversion or illicit use of materials that can be used for IED
  o Consideration of the Questionnaire on national counter-IED frameworks and a first assessment of the responses received

15.00 – 18.00
• IEDs (cont’d):
  o Discussion on the way ahead on the question of IEDs in the framework of the CCW and beyond, and in preparation for the CCW Fifth Review Conference
  o Conclusions
• Wrap-up by the President-designate and Preparation for the Fifth Review Conference
• Closing of the meeting

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ANOTATED PROGRAMME OF WORK

Thursday, 7 April 2016
15:00 – 18:00

Opening of the meeting

The President-designate, Ambassador Jānis Kārkliņš (Latvia), will open the meeting of the Group of Experts and outline the Programme of Work.

Universalization

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

Operation and status of the Protocol

The Coordinator, Mr. David Pusztai (Hungary), will open the discussion on ‘reviewing the operation and status of the Protocol, consider matters arising from reports by High Contracting Parties according to Article 13 (4) of Amended Protocol II; as well as the development of technologies to protect civilians against indiscriminate effects of mines.’

First, the main focus of the work will be on national reporting. The Coordinator will provide a brief analysis of Form F of the national annual reports on “Other relevant matters”. All High Contracting Parties which have an interest in sharing information on other matters relevant to the implementation of the Protocol are encouraged to do so during the session. Delegations may wish to consider whether a revision to the “Guide to reporting” could be useful in light of the developments and progress achieved in the field of mine action since the adoption of the Protocol.

Second, on the development of technologies to protect civilians against indiscriminate effects of mines, delegations are encouraged to share their views on existing technologies which could protect civilians against the indiscriminate effects of mines. The High Contracting Parties may also wish to share their views on what could be the best way to address this particular topic in the future.

Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)

The Coordinator, Colonel Nicolas Coussière (France) and the Co-Coordinator, Mr. Igor Moldovan (Republic of Moldova) will open the discussion and outline their plans.

Following the opening there will be a brief general exchange of views on IEDs. This will focus on exploring the impact of the IED threat and its humanitarian dimension. Delegations are welcome to share their general views on the IED threat and to provide national updates on the issue.

The discussion will largely focus on the following issues:
• Compilation of existing guidelines, best practices and other recommendations aiming at addressing the diversion or illicit use of materials that can be used for IED. Delegations are encouraged to provide further relevant information which may be added to the compilation.

• Information exchange on national measures and best practices on preventing the diversion of explosives, and on detection and counter-measure techniques. Delegations are encouraged to contribute actively in the two topics above to advance the work on IEDs.

Friday, 8 April 2016
10:00 – 13:00

IEDs (continued)

• Developing best practices, with a special focus on databases. Delegations are encouraged to share their views on exploring the possibility of an information exchange database, portal or platform as a tool for improving information-sharing and reducing the threat of IEDs. The presentations of previous meetings of the Group will serve to guide delegations on whether there is a possibility to pursue this issue further.

• Questionnaire on national counter-IED frameworks to enhance international cooperation and assistance and strengthen national capacities of the High Contracting Parties. A first assessment of the responses received so far will be presented by the Coordinators. Those High Contracting Parties which have not yet responded to the questionnaire are encouraged to do so.

Friday, 8 April 2016
15:00 – 18:00

IEDs (continued)

• Way forward on IED in preparation for the CCW Fifth Review Conference. Delegations are encouraged to collectively reflect on the way ahead on IEDs in the framework of the CCW or in a broader context beyond the CCW, as well as on options of possible outcomes or follow-up work that could be envisaged in this area.

Wrap-up and Preparation for the Fifth Review Conference

The President-designate will wrap up the work of the Group and lead a brief discussion on the preparation for the Review Conference. Delegations are encouraged to express their views on the substantive review of the implementation of Amended Protocol II, and to provide an update on their implementation of the provisions of the Protocol, including the challenges faced and on possible options for future decisions to be considered at the Review Conference.
Closing of the meeting

The President-designate will officially close the meeting of the Group of Experts and outline his plans for the Eighteenth Annual Conference to be held on Tuesday, 30 August 2016 in Geneva.

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