Opening of the meeting

1. During the opening of the 2018 Group of Experts, the President-designate, H. E. Ambassador Alice Guittion (France), will open the meeting and outline the Programme of Work. The mandate of the Group of Experts is set out in the decisions\(^1\) taken at last year’s Nineteenth Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II.

Universalization

2. 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 Amended Protocol II at the regional, sub-regional and national levels.

Operation and status of the Protocol

In line with the decisions taken at the 2017 Conference of High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II\(^2\), the Group of Experts shall review the operation and status of the Protocol and shall consider matters arising from the national annual reports, as well as the development of technologies to protect civilians against indiscriminate effects of mines.

The Coordinator on the operation and status of the Protocol, Ms. Eszter Kroll (Hungary) will provide an update on the implementation by the High Contracting Parties of their obligation to submit national annual reports. The Coordinator will provide a general overview of their content focusing on the information submitted in form G “Information to the UN-database on mine clearance”\(^3\).

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” of Form G could

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1. CCW/APII/CONF.19/4, paragraph 31
2. CCW/APII/CONF.19/4, paragraph 27
3. CCW/APII/CONF.19/4, paragraph 27 c)
be useful in light of the developments and progress achieved in the field of mine action since the adoption of the Protocol.

In addition, with regard to 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 (IED)**

4. The Coordinator, Colonel Nicolas Coussière (France) and Co-Coordinator, Ms. Diana Esperanza Castillo Castro (Colombia), will open the discussion and outline their plans.

Following the opening there will be a general exchange of views on IED. 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 on Improvised Explosive Devices will be structured in accordance with the decisions[^4] taken at the 2017 Nineteenth Annual Conference:

5. **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**

   (a) The High Contracting Parties request the Implementation Support Unit, in consultation with the Coordinators and the High Contracting Parties, to maintain, update and keep available on the CCW website the Compilation of existing guidelines, best practices and other recommendations aiming at addressing the diversion or illicit use of materials that can be used for improvised explosive devices, on an ongoing basis as new relevant information is published; they further request the Implementation Support Unit to make the compilation more user-friendly on the CCW website;

   The Coordinators will report on the replies received following their letter, dated 8 May 2018, in which they invited the High Contracting Parties to update the compilation as necessary.

   Ms. Katherine Prizeman, Political Affairs Officer at the Conventional Arms Branch of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in New York will provide a short presentation of UNODA’s website on IED. UNMAS will also present the outcome of the mapping exercise it conducted.

6. **Information exchange on IED risk education methods, campaigns or practices**

   (b) With a view to ultimately drafting guidelines based on existing best practices, recommendations and lessons learned on methods to educate civilians to the risk posed by IED,

[^4]: CCW/AP.II/CONF.19/4, paragraph 29
the Group of Experts will initiate voluntary information exchange on IED risk education methods, campaigns or practices;

A panel discussion will set the conceptual framework for the deliberations on IED risk education. After the panel discussions, delegations are encouraged to report on national, regional or international IED risk education methods, campaigns or practices.

Monday 11 June 2018, 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

7. Information exchange on national measures, best practices and lessons learned

(c) The Group of Experts shall, in accordance with the objectives and purposes of the Convention, continue to exchange information on a voluntary basis and subject to national policies on the protection of sensitive information, on national measures, best practices and lessons learned on the following topics:

(i) General features of IEDs, including new types of IED;

Four High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II and an operator will provide presentations during a panel discussion.

(ii) Methods of humanitarian clearance of IED;

A High Contracting Party to Amended Protocol II will share insights on national measures, best practices and lessons learned on humanitarian clearance of IED.

(iii) Methods to protect civilians from IED;

Perspectives on methods to protect civilians from IED will be shared by representatives from a High Contracting Party and a civil society representative.

Interactive discussions will take place after each respective panel. Delegations are invited to share information on national measures, best practices and lessons learned on the above mentioned topics.

8. Facilitation of voluntary information sharing to help counter the illicit use of IED

(d) The Group of Experts shall discuss, consistent with the scope of Amended Protocol II, how to facilitate effective voluntary sharing of information to help counter the illicit use of IED;

A representative from a High Contracting Party will share views on ways to enhance information to help counter the illicit use of IED.

Delegations are encouraged to contribute actively to the discussion in order to advance the work on IED.
9. **Questionnaire on Counter-IED**

(e) With respect to the questionnaire on Counter-IED and based on the responses received, the High Contracting Parties request the Implementation Support Unit, in consultation with the Coordinators and the High Contracting Parties, to:

   (i) Continue to make available to High Contracting Parties through the restricted area on the CCW website the responses to the questionnaire;

   (ii) Continue to maintain a list of national point of contacts for Counter-IED cooperation, available on the protected area of the CCW website;

The Coordinators will report on the replies received following their letter, dated 8 May 2018, in which they invited the High Contracting Parties to submit questionnaires on Counter-IED frameworks. A first assessment of the responses received so far will be presented by the Coordinators.

10. **Relevant developments in addressing the threat posed by IED in other fora**

(f) 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.

The Coordinators will organize a panel discussion focusing on regional dimensions of the fight against IED.

**Closing of the meeting**

11. The President-designate will wrap up the work of the Group and outline her plans for the Twentieth Annual Conference to be held on 20 November 2018.