CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW)

CCW Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices

Group of Experts 2016

The Permanent Representatives of the High Contracting Parties to CCW Amended Protocol II

Geneva

Geneva, 2 March 2016

Excellency,

I am writing to you in my capacity as President-designate of the Eighteenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). I wish to set out the programme of work for the upcoming Amended Protocol II Group of Experts meeting, which will take place on 7 and 8 April 2016 in the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Opening of the meeting

As President-designate I will open the meeting of the Group of Experts and outline the Programme of Work.

Universalization

Efforts to strengthen greater adherence to the Protocol remains a priority for the High Contracting Parties. 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 of Hungary, will lead 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.’

The main focus of the work under this topic will be on national reporting. All High Contracting Parties are encouraged to submit their national annual reports by the deadline of 31 March 2016. High Contracting Parties which require assistance on this matter are welcome to get in touch with the Coordinator or the Implementation Support Unit.
On national annual 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 but falls outside of forms A to E are encouraged to do
so during the session. Furthermore, the High Contracting Parties may wish to consider
and whether a revision to the “Guide to reporting” could be useful.

**Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)**

The work on IEDs will be led by the Coordinator, Mr. Nicolas Coussière of France,
and the Co-Coordinator, Mr. Igor Moldovan of the Republic of Moldova. As noted in
their letter to all the High Contracting Parties, the discussion on IEDs will be focusing
on 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 IED;
information exchange on national measures and best practices on preventing the
diversion of explosives, and on detection and counter-measure techniques; developing
best practices, with a special focus on databases; the questionnaire on national
counter-IED frameworks and a first assessment of the responses received; and the
way forward on IED in preparation for the CCW Fifth Review Conference.

**CCW Fifth Review Conference**

The President-designate, together with the Coordinators and the Implementation
Support Unit, will conduct broad-based consultations with High Contracting Parties in
preparation for the Review Conference on possible options for future decisions to be
considered at the Conference on the operation and status of the Protocol and on
improvised explosive devices. High Contracting Parties are encouraged to express
their views on this matter during the meeting of the Group of Experts.

**Programme of Work**

The Programme of Work for the Group of Experts is attached to this letter.

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I look forward to working with you and to the involvement of all delegations at the
meeting of the Group of Experts. If you require further information about the
preparation for this meeting, please do not hesitate to contact either the delegation of
Latvia, the Coordinators or the CCW Implementation Support Unit.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

The President-designate of the Eighteenth Annual Conference of the
High Contracting Parties to CCW Amended Protocol II

[Signature]

Jānis Kārkliņš
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Latvia
PROGRAMME OF WORK

Thursday, 7 April
15.00 – 18.00
- Opening of the meeting
- Universalization
- Operation and status of the Protocol
- Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs):
  - Introduction
  - General exchange of views
  - Compilation of existing guidelines and best practices aiming at addressing the diversion of illicit use of materials that can be used for IEDs
  - 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
10.00 – 13.00
- IEDs (cont’d):
  - 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
  - Consideration of the Questionnaire on national counterIED frameworks and a first assessment of the responses received

15.00 – 18.00
- IEDs (cont’d):
  - 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
  - Conclusions
- Wrap-up by the President-designate
- Closing of the meeting