Netherlands Statement

concerning Protocol V (Explosive Remnants of War),

Meeting of the High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 11 November 2019

by His Excellency Mr. Robbert Gabrielse

Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
to the Conference on Disarmament

Madam President,

Please allow me first to thank you for chairing this meeting. We are very pleased to cooperate with you and you can count on the full support of my delegation.

In addition to the statement by the European Union the Netherlands would like to make the following brief remarks in its national capacity.

Madam President,

The threat of Explosive Remnants of War remains of concern. The Netherlands therefore continues to attach great importance to Protocol V, which remains an effective instrument to comprehensively address ERW’s.

We believe that transparency and confidence-building are of key to the implementation of the Protocol, and therefore urge all High Contracting
Parties to meet their reporting obligations. It has been noted before that some High Contracting Parties are facing difficulties to fulfill their reporting obligations. For such States, expert assistance could make the difference between being able to file a report or not being able to do so.

We therefore appreciate the continued efforts by the Presidency, with the assistance of the ISU, to facilitate expert assistance under this Protocol. We encourage additional efforts to further the operationalization of expert assistance, including through military experts, and urge those responsible to make this issue a priority.

The Netherlands remains committed to efficient international cooperation and assistance, and we believe that sharing expertise and providing experts can further contribute to this end.

Thank you.