AMENDED PROTOCOL II ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF MINES, BOOBY-TRAPS AND OTHER DEVICES GROUP OF EXPERTS/CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS

Geneva, 9–10 April 2015

TOP 1: General Information Exchange

Mr. Coordinator,

Germany wishes to thank the Co-Coordinators France and Moldova¹ for their valuable work on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), their comprehensive preparation of this year’s Amended Protocol II Group of Experts Meeting and their chairmanship. Germany aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

We are deeply concerned at the global threat from the illegal and indiscriminate use of IEDs by terrorists and criminals. Around 25,000 IED incidents per year are recorded by different institutions and NGOs worldwide but many more incidents might not have been reported. Tens of thousands of people are injured or killed by IEDs each year.

¹ Mr Erwan Roche (France), Mr Igor Moldovan (Moldova)
Therefore Counter-IED measures are of utmost importance. The prevention of the diversion or the illicit use of materials that can be used for IEDs, such as commercial grade explosives and chemical precursors (like ammonium nitrate and hydrogen peroxide), and non-explosive precursors like detonators plays a crucial role. Aspects of interest could be tagging of explosives, monitoring the transfer chain from the producer to the end user, comprehensive security checks for personnel that handles explosives, detonators and precursor materials, and assessing the risk of the spread of IEDs containing chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) components. The enhancement of information sharing on the spread of manuals and instructions on the construction of IEDs on the internet among the High Contracting Parties would also be useful.

We believe that an exchange with existing Counter-IED agencies, for example through expert presentations in Amended Protocol II Group of Experts Meetings could help to share expertise, opinions and best practices, avoid redundant structures and explore the way ahead towards an improved information exchange on the subject. Thus High Contracting Parties would be in a better position to address the threat caused by IEDs.

Thank you, Mr. Coordinator.