Opening of the meeting

1. The President-designate of the 13th Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, H.E. Ambassador Terhi Hakala (Finland), will outline the Programme of Work. The mandate of the Meeting of Experts is set out in the decisions taken at last year’s 12th Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V.1

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 Protocol V at the regional and sub-regional and national levels.

National Reporting

3. The Presidency and the Secretariat will provide an update on the implementation of the obligation to submit national annual reports by High Contracting Parties.

High Contracting Parties will be invited to discuss measures to increase the rate of national reporting and consistency of the current reporting methodology in the framework of Protocol V.

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.

Thematic Session 1 - Clearance of explosive remnants of war in urban contexts

4. A panel discussion, moderated by Mr. Jim Burke, Director of Engineering, Irish Defence Forces, will initiate the discussion. The panel will consist of the following representatives:

   - Mr. Timo Ronkainen, Commander, Kymi Engineer Battalion, Karelia Brigade, Finnish Defence Forces

   - Ms. Bridget Foster, Palestine Programme Manager, UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

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1 CCW/P.V/CONF/2018/5
After the panel discussions, delegations are encouraged to respond to the following set of questions during their interventions:

1. What are the particular challenges for clearance when ERW covered by the Protocol have been used in urban areas?
2. How are you prioritizing areas requiring clearance in urban context?
3. How have you adjusted your ERW clearing operations during and after conflict in order to protect civilians in contaminated areas?
4. What effects of these adjustment measures did you observe?
5. What are the steps that you have taken to reduce the prevalence of explosive remnants of war?

High Contracting Parties are encouraged to report on a voluntary basis on their readiness to contribute to facilitating the marking and clearance, removal or destruction of ERW. Such States may also wish to speak on how they determine the priority areas to be cleared and the challenges they have encountered in providing assistance with clearance operations.

Friday, 23 August 2019, 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Room XVII)

Thematic Session 2 – Article 4 on recording, retaining and transmission of information

A panel discussion, moderated by Mr. Mikko Autti, Unit for Arms Control, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland will initiate the discussion. The panel will consist of the following representatives:

- Mr. Olivier Cottray, Head, Information Management Division, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi, Director, Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC), Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)

The panel discussion will focus in particular on data collection, information management and sharing as well as best practices in this domain. After the panel discussions, delegations are encouraged to respond to the following set of questions during their interventions:

1. Could you give some concrete examples if and how you have been delivering information on the abandonment of explosive ordnance after the cessation of active hostilities to parties controlling the affected areas?
2. How do your authorities facilitate the rapid marking and clearance, removal or destruction of explosive remnants of war in the contaminated area?
3. Could you give some examples of how you are informing civilian populations about the danger posed by ERW in affected territory?

**Thematic Session 3 – Article 8 on co-operation and assistance focusing on victim assistance**

6. A panel discussion, moderated by Ms. Christelle Loupforest, Global Coordinator of Mine Action, Global Protection Cluster / UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), will initiate the discussion and the panel will consist of the following representatives:

   - **Representative from the Health Unit, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**
   - **Mr. Khaled Rashad Al-Khaqani, Director, General of Directorate for Mine Action (DMA), Ministry of Health and Environment of Iraq**
   - **Ms. Murielle Marchand, First Secretary, Permanent Representation of Belgium to the United Nations in Geneva**

After the panel there will be an opportunity for delegations to exchange information and experiences on the implementation of the commitments on victim assistance at the national and community levels, to provide updates on the latest approaches and innovations in the field of victim assistance and to exchange practical experiences and lessons learned with other relevant legal instruments and fora.

Delegations are encouraged to respond to the following guiding questions in their interventions:

1. How do you educate the civilian population about the risks of ERWs?
2. How does the presence of ERW affect the provision of health care to and the rehabilitation of victims of ERW?
3. How have you organized the emergency first aid to the victims of the ERWs?
4. What kind of long-term support do you provide to victims after ERW accidents either in your country or in another country through co-operation and assistance?

**Closing of the meeting**

7. The President-designate, H.E. Ambassador Terhi Hakala (Finland), will wrap up the work of the Group and will outline her plans for the Thirteenth Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on 11 November 2019.