Statement of the Representative of the Delegation of the Russian Federation at the Ninth Conference of States – Parties to Protocol V to the CCW

(Geneva, November 9, 2015)

Dear Mr. Chairman,

First of all let me congratulate you on the election to this demanding post and assure you of our delegation’s commitment to closely cooperate with you.

The Russian Federation attaches great importance to Protocol V to the CCW and considers this document to be one of the most successfully implemented in the framework of our Convention. Its development, adoption and entry into force have reaffirmed the relevance of the Convention. It allows to more efficiently address the issues of ordnances becoming ERW. The Protocol is also important since it explicitly demonstrates the need for and the ability of multilateral efforts to provide security and predictability in international relations.

Russia has been fully implementing the provisions of Protocol V and regularly informed about it the CCW Implementation Support Unit in its national annual reports. We note with satisfaction that the elaborated recommendations concerning the preparation of national reports disaggregated for each article promote the drawing up of national reports on the observation of Protocol V and its Technical Annex and make substantial contribution to ensuring transparency while implementing its provisions. In general, we support the last innovations in drawing up reports, in particular, combining of forms E and F, appearance of form F (a) and recommendations concerning its filling in etc.

Russian military constantly conduct a whole range of measures aimed at ensuring observation of Protocol V. Among the measures that have been implemented in the last reporting period we would like to highlight the following.
We continue to clear the territory of our country from ERW. The use of robotic demining complexes (such as Uranium-6) has accelerated this work in recent years - the engineering troops annually clear 5-6 thousand ha of the territory.

We still attach great importance to improving the legal and organizational basis in order to more effectively observe the Protocol. An important measure in this direction was the adoption by the Armed Forces of Russia of the Requirements to Mine Clearing. This process was significantly boosted by the creation in Russia in 2014 of the International Anti-Mine Center. Nowadays it provides training of specialists in the sphere of detection and removal of ERW, ground demining, operators of mobile robotic complexes, and mine detection specialists.

Victim assistance becomes more and more important. Though there are no specific programs on social protection of the ERW victims in Russia, this category is supported in the framework of programs on providing assistance to persons with disabilities, veterans, and retired people. New relevant programs have appeared recently (for example, "Accessible Environment").

The year 2015 was marked by holding in June 2015 by the Defense Ministry of the Russian Federation of the International Conference on Mine Clearing. We will provide more detailed information about the outcomes of this event in a separate presentation.

Great attention is paid to the implementation of Article 9 and the Technical Annex of the Protocol. Today Russian Armed Forces continue to execute the order of the President of the Russian Federation to optimize the storage of missiles and ordnances. Significant progress has been recently achieved in this area.

We shall provide detailed information on specific issues of observation of the Protocol and its Technical Annex during the discussions.

Thank you for attention.