Statement by the GICHD

CCW Thirteenth Conference of the High contracting Parties to Protocol V on ERW to the CCW-11th November 2019

Mme. President,

At the outset, I would like – on behalf of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining – to congratulate you on your Presidency and commend you for your excellent work during this year.

The GICHD very much supports the initiative of the Presidency to highlight reporting mechanisms as an important aspect of programming at the national level. Proper record keeping and reporting is an important prerequisite for accurately understanding the scale and nature of ERW contamination. Such an understanding forms the basis of those interventions that are initiated by states as means of meeting their obligations under Protocol V.

In today’s operating environment it is also essential to recognize the importance of gathering the necessary data in support of field operations. Effective information management affords programmes the ability to design appropriate technical responses which in turn ensures that clearance operations can be conducted safely and efficiently in line with quality requirements stipulated in International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) - thereby ensuring confidence in the outputs that are produced.

During 2019 the IMAS Review Board, which is Chaired by United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), has been developing guidance on minimum data requirements for mine action. The aim is to have this completed in 2019. Once implemented, such standardised guidance will help with clarifying the information which needs to be collected by operators on all mine action programmes globally and without impeding their ability to determine any additional context specific requirements. This initiative will of course ensure that national programmes are equipped with the information that they need to properly disaggregate information relating to ERW.
In order to ensure that reporting is managed correctly, field operators and national authorities, furnished with appropriate standards on data collection also need to be equipped with effective information management tools such as Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), which has the capacity to display straightforward and universal reporting formats.

It is only through an accurate understanding of contamination that States can determine the most effective ways to address the challenges it poses. As such, sound information management and robust reporting processes will continue to form the foundation of effective convention implementation.

Thank you.