DISCUSSION PAPER #4

(CCW/P.V/MX/2010/4)¹

Presented by Mr. Henrik Markuš of Slovakia
Coordinator on Recording, Retaining and Transmission of Information

NATIONAL REPORTING UNDER CCW PROTOCOL V ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

I. BACKGROUND / MANDATE²

“F. National reporting


46. The Conference also decided to approve the draft “Guide to National Reporting under CCW Protocol V” as a document representing a check list of questions to be used as a tool at the discretion of the High Contracting Parties to facilitate the filling-out of the forms of the National Reporting under Protocol V by providing the information referred to in paragraphs 24 to 28 of the Final Document of the First Conference of the High Contracting Parties.

47. The Conference recommended to the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, as well as to the observer States submitting national reports on a voluntary basis, to use the Guide in order to provide the above-mentioned information in the most comprehensive way possible.

48. The Conference decided to continue to evaluate the reporting mechanism, including the Reporting Formats referred to in paragraphs 24 to 28 of the Final Document of the First Conference of the High Contracting Parties and the “Guide to National Reporting under CCW Protocol V” in light of the experience from the reports to be submitted by 31 March 2010, and to request the Protocol V informal Meeting of Experts in 2010 to make recommendations on the above for consideration by the Fourth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V.”

II. RECAPITULATION (WHERE THE ISSUE OF NATIONAL REPORTING STANDS)

1. As outlined in the above background / mandate for the 2010 informal Meeting of Experts:
   a. The Third Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V approved the “Guide to National Reporting under CCW Protocol V”;
   b. At the same time, the Conference decided to evaluate the Guide in light of the experience from the reports to be submitted by 31 March 2010;
   c. The Coordinator, in his letter of February 8, 2010:
      i. called on the High Contracting Parties to meet their transparency obligations by providing national reports before the established deadline, as follows:
         - for those States which have met their reporting obligation since 2008 - by providing update, as appropriate;
         - for those States which have failed to meet their reporting obligation 180 days

¹ Note: This is not an official UN document and the symbol is used for reference purposes only!
after the entry into force of the Protocol for the High Contracting Party$^3$ - to provide their initial reports as soon as possible;

(ii) reminded that the national reports should be sent no later than 31 March 2010;

(iii) recommended, pursuant to the relevant decision of the Third Conference of the High Contracting Parties, to use the “Guide to National Reporting under CCW Protocol V” in order to provide the information referred to in paragraphs 24 to 28 of the Final Document of the First Conference of the High Contracting Parties in the most comprehensive way possible;

(iv) underlined that:

▪ use of the above-mentioned Guide is at each country’s discretion;

▪ national reports will serve as the primary sources of information and experience for follow-up deliberations at the 2010 informal Meeting of Experts with a view to make recommendations for consideration by the Fourth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V.

II. POSSIBLE ELEMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION / ACTION TO BE TAKEN

2. It is very important that the relevant High Contracting Parties to Protocol V meet the 31 March deadline to submit their national report or its update in order to enable the 2010 Meeting of Experts to fulfill its mandate and evaluate the reporting mechanism with specific emphasis on the use of the “Guide to National Reporting under CCW Protocol V”.

3. The following elements could be part of the deliberations:

- Have the High Contracting Party taken advantage of the Guide in preparing their 2010 national report or its update?
  - If yes:
    - Was the report prepared from scratch or by using the Guide; or was it used only to supplement additional information based on the elements provided by the Guide?
    - What are the lessons learned from using the Guide for preparation of the 2010 report?
    - What advantages / drawbacks have been identified while using the Guide?
    - What improvements / additions / deletions would they propose in the Guide?
  - If not:
    - What are the reasons of not using the Guide in providing the information in the annual national submissions?
    - Is there a need to amend or otherwise transform the Guide?
    - Will the States consider using the Guide next year?
  - Any other observations

II. POSSIBLE OUTCOME

4. The result of the 2010 informal Meeting of Experts should enable the Coordinator to recommend to the Fourth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V the adoption of the “Guide to National Reporting under CCW Protocol V” as a document representing a check list of questions to be used as a tool at the discretion of the High Contracting Parties to facilitate the filling-out of the

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$^3$ Paragraph 26 of the Final Document of the First Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V CCW/P.V/CONF/2007/1
forms of the National Reporting under Protocol V by providing the information referred to in paragraphs 24 to 28 of the Final Document of the First Conference of the High Contracting Parties.