1. Over the course of these past years, the group of experts of the CCW on explosive remnants of war (ERW) has regularly devoted a part of its work to a reflection on generic preventive measures.

2. In this framework, several propositions had been made to identify good practices on the matter susceptible to be used by all States.

The second Meeting of States Parties to the Protocol V requested the Meeting of Experts to focus more particularly on the proposal/concept contained in the document CCW/P.V/CONF/2008/7. This document presents a pragmatic approach to developing and implementing generic preventive measures throughout the life-cycle of munitions.

This approach is twofold: firstly, it consists in a methodology reflecting a common understanding of the most advisable way to apply generic preventive measures; secondly, it consists in a check-list, or questionnaire, which serves as a guideline to concretely implement the methodology and describes the measures, which could be applied at each stage of the life cycle of armaments. The document is intended to offer a practical and optimal solution to ensure an effective implementation of article 9. 

3. In April 2009, the Group of Experts had an in-depth exchange of views both on the concept and on the substance of the proposed draft, which led to the following conclusions:

   • Firstly, the Group endorsed the general demarche consisting in drafting a “Guide for the implementation of Part 3 of the Technical Annex” aimed to help States in implementing the Technical annex related to the Article 9 of the Protocol was endorsed by the Meeting.

   • Secondly, the Group carried out an in-depth review of the draft Guide and amendments proposed led to substantial improvements. A consolidated version was issued and distributed for further reflection. Even though significant progress was achieved in drafting the Guide and incorporating suggestions, the experts were of the view that more work is needed in order to reach an agreement at a political level. Informal Exchanges between experts took place until last autumn and have been taken into account in the document presented at the last third Conference of High Contracting parties.

4. Decision taken by the Third Conference of the High Contracting Parties (nov. 2009)

   ▶ “The Conference also decided that the 2010 Meeting of Experts should complete the elaboration of the “Guide for the implementation of Part 3 of the Technical Annex” as contained in CCW/P.V/CONF/2009/2/Add.1, with a view of its adoption by the Fourth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V as a best practice for the implementation of Part 3 of the Technical Annex”.

---

¹ Note: This is not an official UN document and the symbol is used for reference purposes only!