Constitution on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)

CCW Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices

Group of Experts 2015

The Permanent Representatives of the High Contracting Parties to
CCW Amended Protocol II
Geneva

Excellency,

Geneva, 20 February 2015

I am writing to you in my capacity as President-designate of the Seventeenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). I wish to set out the programme of work for the upcoming Amended Protocol II Group of Experts meeting, which will take place on 9 and 10 April 2015 in the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Opening of the meeting

As President-designate I will open the meeting of the Group of Experts and outline the Programme of Work.

Universalization

Efforts to enhance greater adherence to the Protocol continues to be a fundamental obligation of the High Contracting Parties. The President-designate will also provide an update on universalization efforts. There will not be a general exchange of views during this segment, but any High Contracting Party or interested organization may wish to brief the Group on their efforts to promote the universalization of this Protocol at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. The States which are not yet party may wish to share information on the steps they have undertaken to accede to Amended Protocol II.

Operation and status of the Protocol

The Coordinator, Mr. David Pusztai of Hungary, will lead the discussion on ‘reviewing the operation and status of the Protocol, consider matters arising from reports by High Contracting Parties according to Article 13 (4) of Amended Protocol II; as well as the development of technologies to protect civilians against indiscriminate effects of mines.’
The main focus of the work under this topic will be on national reporting. All High Contracting Parties are encouraged to submit their national annual reports by the deadline of 31 March 2015. High Contracting Parties which require assistance on this matter are welcome to get in touch with the Coordinator or the Implementation Support Unit.

The Coordinator will provide a brief analysis of Form E of the national annual reports on “Measures taken on international technical information exchange, on international cooperation on mine clearance, and on technical cooperation and assistance”. All High Contracting Parties that have never provided information under this form are encouraged to do so during the session. Furthermore, the “Guide to reporting”, specifically on how to submit information under Form E, will be considered and whether a revision to the Guide would be necessary.

**Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)**

The work on IEDs will be led by the Coordinator, Capt. (Navy) Erwan Roche of France and the Co-Coordinator, Mr. Igor Moldovan of the Republic of Moldova. As noted in their previous communication to all High Contracting Parties through their letters dated 30 January and 6 February, the discussion on IEDs will be focusing on information exchange; on the consideration of a one-time questionnaire on national counter-IED frameworks; on developing best practices, with a special focus on databases; and on the way forward concerning how to deal with the issue on IEDs.

**Programme of Work**

The Programme of Work for the Group of Experts is attached to this letter.

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I look forward to working with you and to the involvement of all delegations at the meeting of the Group of Experts. If you require further information about the preparation for this meeting, please do not hesitate to contact either the delegation of Latvia, the Coordinators or the CCW Implementation Support Unit.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

The President-designate of the Seventeenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to CCW Amended Protocol II

Raimonds Jansons
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Latvia
CCW Amended Protocol II Group of Experts (Geneva, 9 – 10 April 2015)

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Thursday, 9 April
10.00 – 13.00
- Opening of the meeting
- Universalization
- Operation and status of the Protocol
- Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs):
  - Introduction
  - General presentations on:
    - The humanitarian impact
    - The impact on the security of States
  - General exchange of views

15.00 – 18.00
- IEDs (cont’d)
- Working session on the Questionnaire on national counter-IED frameworks
  - Introduction
  - General exchange of views
  - Review of the text

Friday, 10 April
10.00 – 13.00
- IEDs (cont’d):
  - Information exchange on national measures and best practices
  - Detonators
  - IED awareness

15.00 – 18.00
- IEDs (cont’d):
  - Discussion on the possibility of a database, platform or portal
  - Final consideration of the Questionnaire on national counter-IED frameworks
  - Discussion on the way ahead on the question of IEDs (in the framework of the CCW and beyond), and in preparation for the 2016 CCW Review Conference
  - Conclusions
- Wrap-up by the President-designate
- Closing of the meeting