The Brazilian Armed Forces and the Brazilian Ministry of Defense and Industry are concerned about the impact of the removal of the ICES (International Conference on the Environment) Protocol on the environment and the human rights of the population. The Brazilian Armed Forces are committed to the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and have taken measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The ICES Protocol, adopted by the 8th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines (AFLM), is an important tool in the fight against landmines. The Brazilian Armed Forces have been actively involved in the implementation of the ICES Protocol and have contributed to the elimination of landmines in several countries.

The Brazilian Armed Forces are committed to the implementation of the ICES Protocol and have taken measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
countries bounded by Protocol V, as is the case with Brazil, are not or had not been party to an armed conflict for a long time. Therefore, we believe the challenge of ERW should also be tackled through prevention, which includes the exchange of successful experiences, the promotion of best practices and capacity building measures as far as these initiatives respect the sovereignty of all countries.

Brazil believes that national reporting is an important measure for improving the implementation of Protocol V. In this regard, we welcome the Dutch proposal of a voluntary expert assistance mechanism for national reporting, which seems to be a good basis for our future deliberations on the matter.

We stress that cooperation and assistance are vital for the implementation of the Protocol. In this respect, we encourage all High Contracting Parties and relevant international organizations and institutions to consider providing assistance in response to requests by ERW-affected States in order to further support capacity building for surveillance, clearance and destruction of ERWs. In this regard, while potential cooperation among developing countries and among ERW-affected States should be encouraged, we believe it should not be seen as an alternative to effective cooperation by developed countries that have resources to provide such assistance.

With regard to generic preventive measures, we understand that training, capacity-building and knowledge sharing are the best ways to ensure safety conditions and avoid unexpected explosions at ammunition sites. In our view, these actions should be prioritized over the negotiation of additional regulations or guidelines.

Mr. Chairperson,

As a High Contracting Party, Brazil is committed to the promotion of Protocol V and its universalization. We acknowledge there is much work to be done. The 2016 CCW Review Conference will provide an opportunity to review the Protocol status and its operation. Brazil stands ready to work with other countries towards achieving such goal. I thank you.