Mr. President,
At the outset, let me congratulate you on the election to this important position and assure of our delegation’s complete readiness for constructive cooperation.
The Russian Federation attaches great importance to the CCW Protocol V and views this document as one the most successfully implemented in the framework of our Convention. This document enables a more effective solution of issues relating to the transformation of munitions into ERWs. The Protocol is also important since it vividly demonstrates the necessity and feasibility of multilateral efforts aimed at ensuring security and predictability in international affairs.
Our country fully implements the provisions of Protocol V and regularly communicates the results to the CCW ISU in its national reports.
The Russian Armed Forces constantly carry out a whole range of activities for the implementation of Protocol V. Among the activities conducted in the reporting period we would like to highlight the following.
The Armed Forces of Russia continue their demining operations clearing territories inside and outside the country of explosive objects. Overall, in 2016, they verified about 93,000 ha of the territory detecting and destroying over 306,000 explosive objects, a significant amount of which accounted for IEDs. In 2017, we expect more than 6,000 ha of the territory to be cleared of explosive objects.
Local population continues to play a major role in this process due to the disposal of explosive remnants of war upon urgent requests (introduced in accordance with the Manual on Clearance of Territories of Explosive Objects issued for the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation). In 2016, the Russian Armed Forces received over 4,000 such requests and eliminated over 50,000 explosive objects.
An important area of Russian demining specialists’ work was their activities in the Syrian Arab Republic. Russian servicemen conducted humanitarian demining of Palmyra (twice), Aleppo and the city of Deir-ez-Zor. We will provide a more detailed information in a separate presentation.
The Russian Federation significantly advanced the demining process in Syria by the establishment of a training center for Syrian demining experts in Aleppo in 2016. The center plays a critical role for the Syrian population exchanging experience with Syrian colleagues and strengthening the potential of Syria in this area.
Our country still attaches great importance to training experts in the field of detecting and defusing IEDs and demining as well as robotic system operators and mine-searching service experts. All these activities are regularly carried out by the International Anti-Mine Center established in 2014. We would like to stress once again the openness for cooperation shown by the center of the Russian Armed Forces and its willingness to share its relevant expertise.
In conclusion, we would like to welcome the intention of today’s Conference to consider very important issues relating to the implementation of Protocol V, namely the implementation of Article IV and strengthening the national accountability procedure. Russian experts will try to contribute to this discussion. Thank you