Opening of the meeting

1. The President-designate, H. E. Ambassador Zbigniew Czech (Poland), will open the 2019 Group of Experts meeting and outline the Programme of Work. The mandate of the Group of Experts is set out in the decisions\(^1\) taken at last year's 20\(^{th}\) Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II.

Universalization

2. The President-designate will provide an update on universalization efforts. High Contracting Parties or interested organizations may wish to brief the Group on their efforts to promote the universalization of Amended Protocol II at the regional, sub-regional and national levels.

Operation and status of the Protocol

3. In line with the decisions taken at the 2018 Conference of High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II\(^2\), the Group of Experts shall review the operation and status of the Protocol and consider matters arising from the national annual reports, as well as consider measures to increase the rate of national reporting and consistency of the current reporting methodology in the framework of Amended Protocol II.

The Presidency and the Secretariat will provide an update on the implementation of the obligation to submit national annual reports by High Contracting Parties.

High Contracting Parties will be invited to discuss measures to increase the rate of national reporting and consistency of the current reporting methodology in the framework of Amended Protocol II.

High Contracting Parties which have an interest in sharing information on other matters relevant to the implementation of the Protocol are encouraged to do so during the session.

\(^1\) CCW/APII/CONF.20/5
\(^2\) CCW/APII/CONF.20/5, paragraph 27
Improvised Explosive Devices (IED)

4. The Coordinators, Ms. Diana Esperanza Castillo Castro (Colombia) and Colonel Pascal Levant (France), will open the discussion and outline their plans in accordance with the decisions\(^3\) taken at the 20\(^{th}\) Annual Conference.

Following the opening there will be a brief general exchange of views on IEDs, focusing on exploring the impact of the IED threat and its humanitarian dimension.

Delegations are welcome to share their general views on the IED threat and to provide national updates on the issue. Delegations are also invited to provide updates on relevant developments in other fora addressing the threat posed by IED.

5. **Compilation of existing guidelines, best practices and other recommendations aiming at addressing the diversion or illicit use of materials that can be used for IED**

   (a) *The High Contracting Parties request the Implementation Support Unit, in consultation with the Coordinators and the High Contracting Parties, to maintain, update and keep available on the CCW website the compilation\(^4\) of existing guidelines, best practices and other recommendations aiming at addressing the diversion or illicit use of materials that can be used for improvised explosive devices, on an ongoing basis as new relevant information is published; they further request the Implementation Support Unit to modernize the CCW website and to improve the user interface and experience, including how these compilations are presented;*

The Coordinators will report on the replies received following their letter\(^5\), dated 29 April 2019, in which they invited the High Contracting Parties to update the compilation as necessary.

6. **Current international situation regarding IEDs**

   (c) *The Group of Experts shall, in accordance with the objectives and purposes of the Convention, continue to exchange information on a voluntary basis and subject to national policies on the protection of sensitive information, on national measures, best practices and lessons learned on the following topics:*

   (i) **General features of IEDs, including new types of IED;**

   (ii) **Methods of humanitarian clearance of IED, possibly focusing on technical innovations and developments in methods for humanitarian clearance of IEDs;**

   (iii) **Methods to protect civilians from IED;**

A panel discussion will set the scene.

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\(^3\) CCW/APII/CONF.20/S, paragraph 29


Panelists:

- Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi, Director of the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), based in Kabul, Afghanistan

- Brigadier Gareth Collett, former Director of Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Search of the UK MoD, currently working as Senior International IED consultant for UNDP in Yemen, based in Aden, Republic of Yemen.

- Mr. Lionel Pechera, Programme Coordinator, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), based in Maiduguri, Nigeria

After the panel discussions, delegations are encouraged to exchange information on items i) to iii).

7. Any other business (inter alia matters related to paragraph 34 of the final document of the 20th Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II)

Thursday 22 August 2019, 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

8. Protecting civilians from IEDs: Prevention and IED Risk Education

(b) With a view to ultimately compiling guidelines based on existing best practices, recommendations and lessons learned on methods to educate civilians to the risk posed by IED, the Group of Experts will initiate voluntary information exchange on IED risk education methods, campaigns or practices;

A panel discussion will set the conceptual framework for the deliberations on IED risk education and prevention.

Panelists:

- Mr. Sebastian Wilkin, Programme Assistant, Conventional Arms Program, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), based in Geneva, Switzerland

- Mr. Abayomi Adeomi, Program Officer, Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission, based in Abuja, Nigeria

After the panel discussions, delegations are encouraged to report on national, regional or international IED risk education methods, campaigns or practices and prevention measures.
9. **IED threat mitigation: Capacities deployed and humanitarian clearance**

At the outset, panelists will present practical measures to counter the threat posed by IED.

Panelists:

- RNLN Commander Will Meurer, IED Subject Matter Expert, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

- Mr. Ian Robb, Technical Advisor, Urban Clearance of IEDs, Strategies and Standards Division, Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), based in Geneva, Switzerland

After the panel discussions, delegations are encouraged to provide updates on national, regional or international efforts in the domain of IED threat mitigation.

10. **Questionnaire on Counter-IED**

    (e) With respect to the questionnaire on Counter-IED and based on the responses received, the High Contracting Parties request the Implementation Support Unit, in consultation with the Coordinators and the High Contracting Parties, to:

    (i) Make available to High Contracting Parties the responses to the questionnaire;

    (ii) Maintain a list of national point of contacts for Counter-IED cooperation;

The Coordinators will report on the replies received following their letter, dated 29 April 2019, in which they invited the High Contracting Parties to submit questionnaires on Counter-IED frameworks. The Coordinators will also present proposed revisions to the Counter-IED questionnaire.

11. **Any other business**

**Closing of the meeting**

12. The President-designate, H. E. Ambassador Zbigniew Czech (Poland), will wrap up the work of the Group and will outline his plans for the Twenty-first Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II on 12 November 2019.

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