

**Fifth Conference of the High Contracting Parties
to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War to
the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions
on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons
Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively
Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects**

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Summary record of the 3rd meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Thursday, 10 November 2011, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Khvostov (Belarus)

Contents

Report(s) of any subsidiary organ(s) (*continued*)

Thematic discussion on generic preventive measures

Thematic discussion on victim assistance

Review of the status and operation of the Protocol (*continued*)

Consideration of matters pertaining to national implementation of the Protocol, including national reporting or updating on an annual basis (*continued*)

Preparation for review conferences

Other matters

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Report(s) of any subsidiary organ(s) (continued)

Thematic discussion on generic preventive measures
(CCW/P.V/CONF/2011/6/Rev.1)

1. **Mr. Steinmyller** (France), Coordinator on generic preventive measures, presented his report on the subject (CCW/P.V/CONF/2011/6/Rev.1). Generic preventive measures formed the subject of article 9 of Protocol V. They were aimed at minimizing the occurrence of explosive remnants of war and were listed in detail in part 3 of the technical annex to the instrument. With reference to the decisions adopted on that matter at the fourth annual Conference (CCW/P.V/CONF/2010/11, para. 41), especially that to continue the practice of addressing one specific technical issue, he explained that, at a meeting of experts in April 2011, the Parties had studied munitions management, the life cycle of ordnance and requisite testing throughout that life cycle. At the meeting, experts from Belgium, Germany and France and an independent specialist working with the United States Department of State and Department of Defense had made statements which had sparked some fruitful debates. Those statements would be posted on the website of the Implementation Support Unit in the near future. In addition, some very interesting discussions had taken place on national approaches to and experiences with the implementation of article 9 of the Protocol and part 3 of the technical annex. On the other hand, the adoption of the guide for the implementation of part 3 of the technical annex only a short time earlier meant that there had been little feedback on its use.

2. The International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG), published in October 2011 by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, were an extremely useful contribution to work on generic preventive measures. He requested the showing of a video in which Ms. Goh, a member of the Office, presented the Guidelines and ran through the 12 sections thereof. They dealt with the management of munitions throughout their life cycle and concerned in particular the principles of ammunition management, risk management, accounting, storage facilities, processing, transport, security, demilitarization and destruction, as well as ammunition accidents and operational support. The Guidelines followed a three-tiered approach, with the result that States could first improve their stockpile security and then progressively apply higher standards. The time had come for holding wide consultations on the Guidelines before they were approved or amended by the international community as a whole. They could be accessed on the website of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/Ammunition/IATG).

3. He invited the participants to examine the recommendations contained in paragraph 11 of the report published in document CCW/P.V/CONF/2011/6/Rev.1 and asked if they wished to make any comments on generic preventive measures.

4. **Mr. Laurie** (United Nations Mine Action Service) suggested that subparagraph (c) should also mention the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, given their importance and relevance to the effective implementation of generic preventive measures.

3. **Mr. Steinmyller** (France), Coordinator on generic preventive measures, said that, however important the Guidelines might be, they were far from being the only guidance available to the international community. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, for example, had issued several publications on the subject. In order to incorporate Mr. Laurie's suggestion, he proposed that subparagraph (c) of the recommendations should be recast to read:

(c) To develop, under the aegis of the Coordinator and with the assistance of the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on Certain Conventional

Weapons, a web page on generic preventive measures on the Convention website, in order to facilitate access to existing declarations and presentations and to certain guidelines, including the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines and those published by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, etc. and to other resources.

6. **Mr. Garraux** (Switzerland) said that swapping experiences in the use of the guide for the implementation of part 3 of the technical annex to the Protocol, on generic protective measures, offered a promising platform for future work on the topic. The substantive presentations and fruitful exchanges on the subject chosen for consideration at the meeting of experts in April 2011, in other words munitions management, the life cycle of weapons and testing throughout that life cycle, illustrated the progress made in that regard. Switzerland was therefore in favour of maintaining the tried and tested practice of addressing one technical issue at a time.

7. **Mr. Domingo** (Philippines), outlining the implementation of generic preventive measures at the national level, said that a munitions control centre set up by the Philippine Armed Forces in 2007 was responsible for accounting for the Armed Forces' weapons, ammunition and explosives, ensuring their safety, planning their maintenance and inculcating an awareness of the destructive effects of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons. The centre coordinated munitions management, gave advice on the country's strategic firepower and technical advice on munitions. It provided technical support when specifications were established and munitions were designed. It approved inventories, monitoring reports and reports on the condition of munitions and it liaised with other competent bodies to ensure that the safety programme covering explosives was properly enforced. It supported and itself ran research and development projects. It evaluated and conducted acceptance trials of new munitions. It monitored the disposal of armaments, ammunition and obsolete or unusable items, or of armaments and ammunition captured as booty. The centre and the Armed Forces regularly inspected munitions and destroyed any which were defective. Activities to destroy ammunition were coordinated with the national audit service to ensure the accountability and recording of munitions disposal. Lastly, the Centre trained the members of the Armed Forces in ammunition clearance and tried to alert them to the risks posed by explosive remnants. Several national and international civil society organizations had also engaged in substantial educative and awareness-raising activities in the Philippines.

8. **Mr. Steinmyller** (France), Coordinator on generic preventive measures, said that the statement from the representative of the Philippines showed how much could be achieved by means of resolute action at the domestic level and international cooperation with the implementation of the measures which had been decided. He thanked all the delegations for their very active participation in the work on generic preventive measures and the Implementation Support Unit for its assistance in that respect. He explained that he was not seeking re-election as coordinator in 2012 as he would be leaving his post at the French Permanent Representation in the course of the year.

9. **The President** thanked Mr. Steinmyller for the excellent work which he had done as Coordinator. He took it that the Conference wished to approve the recommendations contained in paragraph 11 of the report under consideration, including the amendment proposed by the representative of the United Nations Mine Action Service, as formulated by the Coordinator.

10. *It was so decided.*

Thematic discussion on victim assistance (CCW/P.V/CONF/2011/7/Rev.2)

11. **Ms. Wörgötter** (Austria) explained that she was representing Ms. Karner, the appointed Coordinator, who was unable to be present owing to other obligations. Together

with Ms. Žunec Brandt, the Friend of the Coordinator, she presented the work undertaken on victim assistance in 2011 and the report on that subject (CCW/P.V/CONF/2011/7/Rev.2). The presentation would highlight five areas of activity which had been based on the decisions taken by the High Contracting Parties at their fourth Conference in 2010 (CCW/P.V/CONF/2010/11, para. 33) namely first, the creation on the existing website of Protocol V of a menu link on victim assistance; secondly, the victim assistance questionnaire which was sent to the Parties in order to obtain a clearer picture of the situation on the ground – the questionnaire could also be downloaded from the above-mentioned website; thirdly, the implementation of the plan of action on victim assistance adopted in 2008 and recommendations in that respect; fourthly, the presentation of national reports on victim assistance, consultations on that issue at the meeting of experts and the suggestions made in the report to the fifth Conference; fifthly and lastly, the assessment of the needs of survivors, their family and communities affected by the explosive remnants of war. In connection with the fifth point, Ms. Officer from the World Health Organization would talk about the Organization's *World report on disability* and explain how it tied in with the implementation of Protocol V.

12. **Ms. Žunec Brandt** (Croatia), Friend of the Coordinator on victim assistance, referring to the first two areas of activity, presented the menu link on victim assistance which had been created on the website of Protocol V, in partnership with the Implementation Support Unit. That menu link began with an introduction quoting the words of the Secretary-General, giving some relevant facts and figures and citing article 8 (2). It then reproduced the plan of action, whose provisions constituted the central platform for action by the High Contracting Parties with respect to victim assistance in that they addressed victims' needs and rights. The link entitled "Documents on victim assistance" contained the questionnaire which had been devised along with the plan of action in order to gain a better understanding of the situation of victims of accidents caused by explosive remnants of war. A separate link had been added to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, because that Convention was mentioned in the preamble to the plan of action. Lastly, under the heading "What else", there were links to other sources of information on victim assistance, such as United Nations bodies, the principal non-governmental organizations, other conventions, etc.

13. The questionnaire itself was reproduced in the section on victim assistance. Thirty-one States, including Serbia as an observer State, had completed and returned it. She strongly encouraged all the High Contracting Parties, as well as observer States, to do likewise, if possible by the meeting of experts in 2012.

14. **Ms. Wörgötter** (Austria), representative of the Coordinator on victim assistance, turning to the third priority area of activity in the field of victim assistance, in other words the implementation of the plan of action adopted by the High Contracting Parties in 2008, commented that the question of synergies and the potential benefits of closer coordination between Protocol V and related instruments on victim assistance had been constantly raised and had also been examined at the meeting of experts in 2011. The Coordinator proposed that the High Contracting Parties should pursue their deliberations on that matter and that the Coordinator should continue to facilitate work on giving effect to the plan of action.

15. The meeting of experts in 2011 had been asked to address the fourth priority area of activity, i.e. the drafting of national reports on victim assistance, and the Coordinator had been requested to submit suggestions to the fifth Conference. At the meeting of experts, the Coordinator had presented some elements for possible incorporation in the amended version of the template for the presentation of national reports on steps to implement article 8. In response to the ideas put forward at the meeting of experts, the Coordinator had annexed a draft revised template to her report. She recommended that the Conference should ask the meeting of experts to continue consultations and work on the national

reporting template, with a view to making suggestions to the sixth Conference. The Conference had to take care not to place an undue reporting burden on States. Discussions at the meeting of experts in 2012 should be based on the proposed reporting template.

16. The Coordinator recommended that the Conference should ask the forthcoming meeting of experts to look more closely at the assessment of the needs of survivors, their family and affected communities, the fifth priority area of activity and to share experiences and practices in that respect. The discussion could focus on a variety of considerations such as how to identify the needs of survivors, their family and affected communities, how to reach out to affected persons, how to collate the necessary data, including statistics and research findings, what obstacles hampered people's exercise of their rights and how to assign and assess responsibility and ensure coordination. It was crucial that specialists and survivors took part in those discussions.

17. **Ms. Officer** (Coordinator for the Disability and Rehabilitation Team of the World Health Organization) presented the key points of the *World report on disability* with respect to Protocol V and victim assistance. The report, which had been produced jointly by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank, approached disability in a manner consistent with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, where disability was understood as interaction between an individual with a health condition and his/her environment.

18. The *World Report* first noted that there were more disabled persons in the world than had been thought. It was estimated that a billion people, i.e. 15 per cent of the world population, lived with some form of disability. That number was rising owing to a number of factors. While disability came in many different forms and did not affect everyone in the same way, in all countries disability prevalence rates were highest among the poor, women and older persons.

19. Few countries had suitable mechanisms to meet the needs of the disabled. The many and various obstacles which the disabled encountered had an adverse impact on their health, school performance (in the case of children) and participation in the labour force and they led to higher poverty rates, greater dependency and a restricted social life. It was recommended that governments, acting in collaboration with development partners, should ensure that the disabled had access to all main services, should invest in appropriate programmes and services for the disabled and should adopt a national disability strategy and plan of action. Governments should also endeavour to increase public awareness and understanding of the problems faced by the disabled and should support research and training in that area. The disabled should always be consulted about initiatives concerning them and should participate in them. In order to enable them to overcome the barriers which they encountered, especially those in the health sphere, it was necessary to reform policies, laws and regulatory mechanisms, to establish health-care standards, to tackle the problem of the costs of health and rehabilitation services, to improve access to infrastructure, means of transport and facilities, to build the capacity of health professionals looking after the disabled and to increase human resources in the field of rehabilitation.

20. It was essential to adopt international standards, such as the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, in order to make sure that disability data was relevant at the national level and comparable at the international level. Similarly, it was vital to improve the quality of national statistics, by adopting an approach that took account of functioning difficulties caused by disability, and to conduct an epidemiological survey of disability.

21. The *World report on disability* should prompt the adoption of national measures for implementation in national and regional programmes which would then have to be scaled up.

22. **Ms. Wörgötter** (Austria), representative of the Coordinator on victim assistance, drew attention to several amendments which had been made to the recommendations formulated by the Coordinator in her report. For the sake of clarity, she read out the final version of paragraph 11 of that report (CCW/P.V/CONF/2011/7/Rev.2) which contained those recommendations.

23. **Mr. Thammayongsa** (Observer for the Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the Lao People's Democratic Republic was one of the countries worst affected by explosive remnants of war, especially cluster munitions. Fourteen out of the country's 17 provinces were contaminated. That was particularly true of remote areas, where the main victims were farmers or the indigent who collected the explosive remnants of war in order to salvage the metal from them. The explosive remnants of war not only killed and maimed, they were a severe constraint on the country's socioeconomic development. There was clearly a correlation between poverty and the presence of unexploded ordnance in 41 of the 46 poorest districts of the country. Experience showed that clearing contaminated land was extremely expensive and time-consuming.

24. In order to plan and organize victim assistance better the Lao Government had set up a national database to garner as much information as possible on accidents due to unexploded ordnance and on victims and survivors. The aim was to assist the authorities concerned to identify priority areas requiring clearance, to introduce appropriate risk education and to assist victims. To that end, the national regulatory authority for unexploded ordnance had conducted two series of national surveys on the typology of victims and accidents between 1964 and 2008 and from 2008 until the current period. Those surveys had shown that, over the years, effective risk education and progress in demining had produced a steady fall in the number of casualties. Much remained to be done, however, especially in the sphere of victim assistance.

25. The four main sources of victim assistance were the National Rehabilitation Centre under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and the Association for Aid and Relief, Japan, COPE and World Education. In practice, those international organizations and non-governmental organizations, which abided by the principle of non-discrimination, supplied medical care, wheelchairs and hand-propelled tricycles. They organized workshops on the production of prosthetic and orthotic devices and offered the relevant services. They helped to set up rehabilitation services and gave vocational training courses or provided specialized instruction for the disabled. They also supported socioeconomic reintegration and self-support programmes by granting small subsidies or running animal husbandry courses.

26. Although some progress had been made, real needs, above all in terms of health services, were still great. That was why all outside assistance was valuable. He warmly thanked the donor countries, international organizations and non-governmental organizations which were assisting his country and he urged them to continue their action.

27. **Mr. Bilal** (Pakistan) wished to know whether, as far as assistance was concerned, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities drew any distinction, or established any order of priority depending on whether a disability was natural, accidental, temporary, etc. and, if it did not, what responsibility to assist victims was borne by a Party to the Protocol or to other disarmament instruments, when it had very restricted resources. Since he was worried about securing a fair distribution of a country's resources to help the victims of explosive remnants of war on the one hand and other disabled persons on the

other, he asked how existing synergies between the above-mentioned Convention and disarmament instruments could be employed in practice in order to assist victims.

28. **Ms. Officer** (Coordinator for the Disability and Rehabilitation Team of WHO) explained that while the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities — which had been signed by 153 States and ratified by 106 — did not establish any distinction, or therefore any order of priority, according to the cause of disability, it might serve as a source of inspiration for non-party States which, as Parties to Protocol V or any other legal instrument restricting the use of certain weapons, would naturally remain bound by their undertakings to assist victims.

28. With regard to taking advantage of synergies, she commented that the facilities and resources available for the victims of explosive remnants of war (physical rehabilitation services, prostheses, orthotic devices, etc.) were very often the same as those needed by other disabled persons irrespective of whether they were the victims of explosive remnants of war, road or train accidents, or poliomyelitis. It would therefore be wise, given the often limited nature of resources, to design and introduce programmes and services which would benefit the largest number of people, no matter what legal instrument applied.

30. **Ms. Lendenmann** (Switzerland) said that, although since the entry into force of Protocol V, the High Contracting Parties had made a great deal of headway on the matter of victim assistance, above all through their adoption of a plan of action, some practical difficulties still existed. Switzerland was therefore grateful that the Coordinator for the Disability and Rehabilitation Team of WHO had stressed the need for synergy when implementing the Protocol or related instruments, such as Amended Protocol II, or even other conventions. She also supported the proposal to widen the scope of the plan of action to the whole regime established by the Convention, since that should promote its universalization.

31. Switzerland always championed a universal, integrated and non-discriminatory approach to victim assistance which was gender and age-sensitive. Its strategy rested on the belief that victims in the wide sense must be provided with the care they needed, regardless of the cause of their disability, and that the available resources should be put to the best possible use. One of Switzerland's prime objectives in the sphere of cooperation was therefore to build the capacity of national actors and to provide the necessary support for planning and putting in place strategies, action plans and national databases, with the active participation of victims.

32. The questionnaire should make it possible to obtain an overall picture of the situation and therefore to pinpoint the improvements which should be made to the victim assistance system set up by the international community. It was, however, crucial to elicit more replies if more appropriate responses were to be found to challenges on the ground. To that end, her country was in favour of pursuing consultations at meetings of experts on victim assistance and of continuing work on the amendment and improvement of national reporting templates, which were vital to the proper execution of the plan of action. She hoped that that work could be completed by the next meeting of the High Contracting Parties.

33. **Mr. Pham Hai** (Observer for Viet Nam) said that, as one of the countries most contaminated by explosive remnants of war, Viet Nam could only share the international community's disquiet about the risks to humanity posed by those remnants. A preliminary survey conducted in 2008 had shown that 88 per cent of the country's communes were affected, which meant that the total contaminated area amounted to 21.12 per cent of the national territory. Bombs or mines had killed or maimed over 100,000 persons who had been the mainstay of their family and that figure was not final. The lives of many survivors, mainly children and young people, would be blighted by their injuries and disability.

34. As the risk was almost omnipresent, local communities had had to make demining and emergency services, victim assistance, rehabilitation and reintegration an integral part of their policies and programmes. In order to coordinate those efforts more efficiently, on 21 April 2010 the Prime Minister had approved a two-phase national action plan covering the period 2010–2025. Between 2010 and 2015 efforts would focus on nationwide contamination mapping, the development of national technical standards, the establishment of a data centre, accident prevention education, victim assistance and resettlement support. Demining, education and support projects would follow in the years between 2016 and 2025.

35. After the adoption of the plan, a steering committee had been set up on 22 December 2010. It was headed by the Prime Minister and it had two vice-chairpersons, the Minister of Defence, who was in charge of demining activities and the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs who was responsible for victim assistance and reintegration. On 22 April 2011 the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs had issued a decision on his task schedule under the action plan. During the initial phase (2010–2015), he intended to develop victim assistance standards, to devise and carry out a project on reintegration assistance for mine and bomb victims, to introduce a system of social services for victims and to strengthen international cooperation in the area of victim assistance. Funding for demining and victim assistance currently came mainly from the State budget and it fell far short of real needs.

36. His country greatly appreciated all the support and assistance which it had received. He particularly thanked the United States of America, Japan, Australia, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations Children's Fund for helping to alleviate the suffering of many victims in the worst affected regions. He called on the international community to step up its backing for demining and victim assistance.

37. **Mr. Laurie** (United Nations Mine Action Service) said that his service welcomed the addition of the menu link on victim assistance to the Convention's website and the publication of the first WHO *World report on disability* — two measures which would greatly further the understanding and provision of victim assistance — and he encouraged participants to read the report and follow the recommendations contained in it.

38. He fully endorsed the recommendations made by the Coordinator. The Parties must not forget families and carers when it came to assisting the victims of explosive remnants of war and must make sure that activities which had often been set up as part of mine clearance programmes were maintained until the issue of disability had been adequately addressed by countries. Building national capacity as part of international cooperation and assistance to countries with a large proportion of disabled persons was of prime importance, because it should promote the establishment of suitable facilities. It was regrettable that care facilities sometimes had to close owing to a lack of resources.

39. In view of the concerns expressed by some countries which were particularly affected by the problem of explosive remnants of war, in other words Sudan, Viet Nam, Serbia, the Philippines, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Afghanistan, he could only recommend accession to the Convention and especially to Protocol V thereto.

40. **Ms. Officer** (Coordinator for the Disability and Rehabilitation Team of WHO) said that the *World report on disability* took account of surviving victims' relatives and carers, but not of dead victims' families. It would indeed be disastrous to wind down assistance programmes for victims of explosive remnants of war without first putting other mechanisms in place. It was necessary to build on existing services in that field, while at the same time ensuring that they specifically met the needs of that category of victims.

41. **Mr. Kimpton** (Australia) commented that, having served with Uganda as Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-

Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, he had found that that Committee's work shared many of the same objectives as that of the work being done under Protocol V. He encouraged the coordinators to embark upon discussions with the Standing Committee and other relevant treaty bodies in 2012, as the sharing of empirical data would certainly be beneficial for everyone.

42. Australia's work on disability-inclusive development was guided by its strategy entitled "Development for All: Towards a Disability-Inclusive Australian Aid Program" which mainstreamed disability-inclusive processes in the national aid programme while supporting the necessary disability-specific activities. That twin-track approach was likewise adopted in the country's assistance for survivors, in the form of social and health services. His country's delegation endorsed the Coordinator's recommendations and encouraged all the High Contracting Parties to engage in consultations in order that the sixth Conference in 2012 could adopt an amended form F for reporting national victim assistance measures.

43. **Ms. Liufalani** (New Zealand) said that the key focus of the Conference's future work on victim assistance should remain those persons' social and economic inclusion. For that reason, the plan of action was still an important component of work under Protocol V. The creation on the website of a menu link devoted to victim assistance was a good move. The questionnaire in that section provided a useful vehicle enabling the High Contracting Parties to share information and thereby identify potential needs and difficulties which the Conference could study in the future. New Zealand supported the recommendation concerning the national reporting template on victim assistance.

44. **The President** said that he took it that the Conference wished to approve the recommendations made by the Coordinator on victim assistance in paragraph 11 of her report (CCW/P.V/CONF/2011/7/Rev.2).

45. *It was so decided.*

Review of the status and operation of the Protocol (continued)

46. **The President** proposed, in accordance with established practice, that the final document should include a paragraph recommending first, that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as Depositary of Protocol V, and the President of the Conference, on behalf of the High Contracting Parties, should endeavour to promote the goal of universality of Protocol V and, secondly, that the President of the Conference should report to the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly on the steps he had taken and their outcome and, thirdly and lastly that the High Contracting Parties, acting with the assistance of the Implementation Support Unit, should strive to promote the accession of more countries to Protocol V.

47. *It was so decided.*

Consideration of matters pertaining to national implementation of the Protocol, including national reporting or updating on an annual basis (continued)

48. **The President** drew attention to the fact that delegations had had an opportunity to speak on that item of the agenda during the general exchange of views and the thematic discussion of that subject. He therefore took it that there was no need to dwell on that item.

49. *It was so decided.*

Preparation for review conferences (CCW/P.V/CONF/2011/9)

50. **Ms. Loose** (Secretariat) announced that some amendments had been proposed to the text on Protocol V (CCW/P.V/CONF/2011/9) which would be submitted for approval to

the Fourth Review Conference of the Convention, for inclusion in the final document of that Conference. In accordance with a proposal from New Zealand, in subparagraph (b) the word “deleterious” would be replaced with “harmful” and in subparagraph (h) the word “coincide” would be replaced with “held back-to-back”. As proposed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) the phrase “including existing explosive remnants of war as referred to in Article 7” would be added after “explosive remnants of war” in the third line of subparagraph (d) and the phrase “All High Contracting Parties, whether affected by explosive remnants of war or not, are encouraged to provide information on their capacity to implement their Article 4 obligations” would be added to the end of the subparagraph.

51. **Mr. Maresca** (International Committee of the Red Cross) explained that the purpose of the first amendment proposed by the ICRC was to draw attention to article 7 of the Protocol which specifically dealt with existing explosive remnants of war, that being the section of Protocol V on which much current work was being done by the meeting of experts and the Conference of the High Contracting Parties. The second amendment proposed sought to underscore the central role played by article 4 in the implementation of the Protocol. It referred to action which had to be undertaken before the performance of any other obligations to give effect to the Protocol.

52. **Mr. Laurie** (United Nations Mine Action Service) expressed his full support for the proposed amendments. Article 4 encompassed some very useful provisions from the point of view of international humanitarian law – as the ICRC, the Secretary-General of the United Nations (in his message the previous day) and the United Nations Mine Action Service had all said. He encouraged the High Contracting Parties to agree to the addition of the proposed phrase at the end of subparagraph (d).

53. **Mr. Singh Gill** (India), supported by the Brazilian delegation, asked for more time to think about the proposed amendments to document CCW/P.V/CONF/2011/9, before expressing an opinion on them. The text at the end of the final document of the Review Conference was traditionally of a formal nature, which it would be wise to preserve. He reminded the ICRC and the Mine Action Service that it was up to the High Contracting Parties to finalize the text and express an opinion on the amendments proposed. On the substance, the Indian delegation deemed the proposed amendment to subparagraph (b) to be superfluous. The wording proposed for the end of subparagraph (d) placed undue emphasis on certain aspects of the implementation of Protocol V.

54. **The President** proposed that informal consultations should be held before any decision was taken on the draft text. He adjourned further consideration of agenda item 12 until the following meeting.

Other matters

55. **The President** noted that no delegation wished to speak under agenda item 14.

The meeting rose at 12.45 a.m.