

**Meeting of the High Contracting Parties 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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**2012 Session**

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Item 12 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of the report of the  
Implementation Support Unit**

**Report  
CCW Implementation Support Unit**

**Submitted by the CCW Implementation Support Unit\***

*Summary*

At the Fourth Review Conference, High Contracting Parties decided that the Implementation Support Unit would “provide a comprehensive report in time for consideration by the High Contracting Parties.”<sup>1</sup> This report describes the activities of the Implementation Support Unit in 2012 to implement the mandate given to it by the 2009 Meeting of High Contracting Parties. Promoting universalization of the Convention and its Protocols, organisation of the Sponsorship Programme and follow-up with sponsored delegates were areas of particular focus in 2012. Important analyses were carried out under Protocol V, which demonstrated where High Contracting Parties face challenges and further work on implementation is needed. In response to past feedback, the Unit has made a greater effort to ensure that meetings are well organised and documentation is issued in a timely fashion.

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\* Late submission to allow the ISU Secretariat to provide complete and detailed information on its activities.

<sup>1</sup> Final declaration, Final document of the Fourth Review Conference, CCW/CONF.IV/4/Add.1, Decision 5, 15 December 2011, paragraph 3.

## I. Introduction

1. The Implementation Support continued in 2012 to work in accordance with its mandate agreed to by High Contracting Parties at the 2009 CCW Meeting. Specifically, the Implementation Support Unit was mandated to

“operate in the most efficient way and [...] perform the following tasks:

(a) Provide administrative support to and prepare documentation for meetings agreed by the meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW, Amended Protocol II and Protocol V;

(b) Facilitate communications among High Contracting Parties and, upon request, with international organizations;

(c) Serve as a focal point for submission of information by and to the High Contracting Parties related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols; develop and maintain the CCW website and the CCW databases as directed by the annual Meetings of the High Contracting Parties;

(d) Support the High Contracting Parties, on request, in the implementation of the CCW and its Protocols and assist the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the discharge of his/her responsibilities pursuant to Article 11(2) of Protocol V, Article 14(4) of Amended Protocol II and the CCW Compliance mechanism;

(e) Contribute to the promotion of the universalization of the CCW and its annexed Protocols and support the High Contracting Parties in the implementation of the CCW Plan of Action for the Universalization of the CCW and its Protocols and the CCW Sponsorship Programme; and

(f) Perform any other duty as mandated by the High Contracting Parties of the CCW or its Protocols.”<sup>2</sup>

2. This report is in response to the decision of the High Contracting Parties at the Fourth Review Conference to request “the Implementation Support Unit to provide a comprehensive report in time for consideration by the High Contracting Parties.”<sup>3</sup>

3. The Implementation Support Unit became fully functional in May 2011 with the recruitment of its second member. It is based in the Geneva Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, which provides administrative facilities for the Implementation Support Unit. The Unit has two staff members: Mr. Bantan Nugroho, Head of the Unit, and Ms. Hine-Wai Loose, Political Affairs Officer. Mr. Nugroho is responsible for management of the Unit, financial and budgetary matters, Amended Protocol II, annual Meeting of High Contracting Parties, compliance and reporting, and universalization. Ms. Loose is responsible for mines other than anti-personnel mines, Protocol V, CCW Sponsorship Programme and universalization.

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<sup>2</sup> Final report of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties in 2009, CCW/MSP/2009/5, paragraphs 34 to 37, dated 20 November 2009.

<sup>3</sup> CCW/CONF.IV/4/Add.1, decision 5, paragraph 3.

## II. Promotion and universalization of the Convention and its Protocols<sup>4</sup>

4. In accordance with its mandate and the agreement of High Contracting Parties at the Fourth Review Conference on an “Accelerated plan of action on the universalization of the Convention and its annexed Protocols” and the call on the Unit to “assist High Contracting Parties efforts to promote universalization, gather information on States not party and work towards the objective of universal adherence to the Convention and its Protocols”,<sup>5</sup> universalization has been one of the priority issues for the Implementation Support Unit in 2012. The Unit has initiated work on the messages from the United Nations Secretary-General to the Heads of State or Government of States not yet party to the Convention; joint messages from the President of the Fourth Review Conference, President of the Thirteenth Annual Conference on Amended Protocol II and President of the Fifth Conference on Protocol V to the Foreign Ministers of States not yet party; and separate messages from the President of the Fifth Conference on Protocol V universalization.

5. In support of the Amended Protocol II and Protocol V officeholders and coordinators, the Implementation Support Unit facilitated bilateral meetings with States not yet party to these two Protocols, such as a series of ten bilateral meetings for the Coordinator on the Operation and Status of Amended Protocol II, Mr. Jesus Domingo.

6. The Implementation Support Unit provided information to and worked with those High Contracting Parties that have engaged in the implementation of the “Accelerated plan of action on the universalization of the Convention and its annexed Protocols” and were willing to promote universalization through their regional and bilateral contacts. The Implementation Support Unit has prepared further papers on the objectives of the CCW and its Protocols and guidance on joining the regime, including a brief on the reasons why developing countries should join the CCW. Several States sought advice on joining the Convention and its Protocols and the Implementation Support Unit liaised with the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs on the accession of one State to the CCW.

7. The Implementation Support Unit has undertaken several new initiatives this year to promote universalization. It has met with 18 States not yet party to explain the objectives of the CCW and how they can join.<sup>6</sup> The Implementation Support Unit has been coordinating with the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs’ regional centres on CCW universalization. Work is now underway with the regional centres in Kathmandu and Lima to disseminate information on the CCW and its Protocols. The Implementation Support Unit has held discussions with different States to explore the opportunities for promoting CCW universalization within their respective regions. The Unit has actively consulted with other United Nations agencies on universalization.

8. The Implementation Support Unit has continued to use all opportunities to promote the CCW and set out its objectives to those wanting to learn about the regime. For example, the Implementation Support Unit was invited to make a presentation on the CCW and its implementation at the “Arms control implementation orientation course” in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) School, Oberammergau, Germany, on 9 February 2012. Also, the Unit has made presentations to numerous groups of students and professionals visiting the United Nations. As mandated by the Fourth Review Conference,

<sup>4</sup> For a description of the Implementation Support Unit’s work on universalization also see, Promoting universality of the Convention and its Protocols, CCW/MSP/2012/6, dated 5 September 2012.

<sup>5</sup> CCW/CONF.IV/4/Add.1, annex I, paragraph 8.

<sup>6</sup> This is an update on the information presented in Promoting universality of the Convention and its Protocols, paragraph 16.

the Unit prepared the report on “Promoting universality of the Convention and its Protocols”.<sup>7</sup>

9. The Implementation Support Unit will attend a workshop being hosted by Palau, with support from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, on the implementation of the Pacific Islands Forum Regional Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Strategy from 24 to 26 October 2012. This will be an important opportunity to work with States from the Pacific region, where there is a low level of adherence to the CCW.

### **III. Support for the meetings of experts and conferences on mines other than anti-personnel mines (MOTAPM), Amended Protocol II and Protocol V**

10. The first Meeting of Experts was on MOTAPM and took place from 2 to 4 April 2012. At the request of the Chairperson-designate, Mr. Jesus Domingo, the Implementation Support Unit prepared an official paper titled “Food-for-thought on MOTAPM”<sup>8</sup> and facilitated the sending of invitations to relevant organisations to participate in the work of the MOTAPM Meeting of Experts. Also, in preparation for the MOTAPM Meeting of Experts and at the request of the Friend of the Chair on MOTAPM, Mr. Jim Burke of Ireland, Col. Lt., the Implementation Support Unit organised bilateral and group consultations with States, international organisations and non-governmental organisations. During the MOTAPM Meeting of Experts, the Implementation Support Unit provided draft briefings for the Friend of the Chair and assisted with drafting the final report. Since the Meeting of Experts and at the request of the Chair-person designate, a webpage on the MOTAPM Meeting of Experts has been created and those delegations that wished to transfer their presentations into official documents have been assisted on this task.

11. The annual Meeting of Experts on Amended Protocol II took place from 23 to 24 April 2012. The Implementation Support Unit organised and supported the work undertaken during the Meeting of Experts on Amended Protocol II. The Implementation Support Unit assisted with the preparation and communication of the Coordinators’ objectives for the Meeting of Experts, and prepared briefings and statements for the President-designate and this year’s Coordinator on the Operation and Status of the Protocol. The Unit assisted with the preparation of the reports and carried out an analysis of form B of the national annual reports concerning mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes.

12. In preparation for the Meeting of Experts on Protocol V, which took place from 25 to 27 April 2012, the Implementation Support Unit met twice with the President-designate’s representative and Coordinators. Also, the Implementation Support Unit met individually with the Coordinators. The Implementation Support Unit assisted with the preparation and communication of the Coordinators’ objectives to States and international organisations, identifying presenters, preparing briefings and statements, and organising small group meetings to take place during the Meeting of Experts. Where necessary, the Unit assisted the Coordinators with the preparation of their reports.

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> CCW/MSP/2012/3, dated 7 March 2012.

#### IV. Conferences on the CCW, Amended Protocol II and Protocol V

13. At the time of the submission of the present report, the Implementation Support Unit is underway with organising this year's annual Conferences on the CCW, Amended Protocol II and Protocol V, including setting up informal briefings, drafting reports, and preparing briefings for the office holders and coordinators. The Unit has sent registration details to all delegations and organised a briefing for delegations in preparation for the annual conferences.

14. Prior to the Fourth Review Conference, the Implementation Support Unit conducted a survey of High Contracting Parties on areas of work where it did well and those areas that needed to be improved. One area of concern was the late distribution of documents in advance of meetings and on this matter the Unit has sought to improve its performance. For example, this year the reports for Amended Protocol II, Protocol V, reports on universality and the Sponsorship Programme, and all cost estimates have been submitted and will be translated in time for the annual conferences. A further area of concern was ensuring a higher meeting utilization rate. The Unit has endeavored to ensure meetings start on time and that officeholders are well prepared.

#### V. Work to support the implementation of Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War

15. The results of the analysis of the national reports submitted by High Contracting Parties to Protocol V (see paragraph 17(b) below), enabled the Implementation Support Unit to identify Article 4 as an area that required greater attention in terms of implementation. At the request of the Coordinator on Clearance and Article 4, Mr. Gerfried Elias, Colonel, the Implementation Support Unit made a presentation on the High Contracting Parties that appeared to be implementing Article 4, those that had reported on other matters and those on which there was insufficient information.

16. The Implementation Support Unit implemented the following tasks as mandated by the Fifth Conference on Protocol V:

(a) On **generic preventive measures**, "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 [...]."<sup>9</sup> The web pages on generic preventive measures are now in place, further material needs to be added and the pages regularly updated.

(b) On **national reporting**, "The Coordinator with the support of the CCW Implementation Support Unit to provide an assessment from the national reports submitted on the utility of the Guide to National Reporting and the progress in implementing the provisions of Protocol V for the Meeting of Experts in 2012."<sup>10</sup> The Implementation Support Unit carried out an analysis of the reports of 49 High Contracting Parties which had submitted reports prior to this year's Protocol V Meeting of Experts. This was the first time that an analysis had been carried out on the progress of High Contracting Parties towards implementing the obligations of Protocol V. The results of the analysis indicated

<sup>9</sup> Final report of the Fifth Conference on Protocol V, CCW/P.V/CONF/2011/12, paragraph 39(c), dated 6 January 2012.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., paragraph 37(d).

where further work is needed on implementation and High Contracting Parties which were examples of best practise.

(c) On **victim assistance**, “The Coordinator and the Friend of the Coordinator with the support of the CCW Implementation Support Unit to provide an assessment of the responses to the questionnaire and the sections of the national reports which address victim assistance at the Meeting of Experts in 2012.”<sup>11</sup> From the Implementation Support Unit’s assessment of the information provided in national reports on victim assistance, it was possible to gain an overall picture of those High Contracting Parties that provided assistance in this area and those that self-identified as having victims of explosive remnants of war (ERW). The Implementation Support Unit was able to assess 29 of the 31 questionnaires submitted on victim assistance. This assessment illustrated the challenges faced by affected States, where further work was required and States which required assistance.

(d) On the **Web-based Information System for Protocol V (WISP.V)**, “the Conference requested that the CCW Implementation Support Unit [to] administer and supervise WISP.V and also requested the Information and Communications Technology Service [ICTS] of the United Nations Office at Geneva to provide for the system’s maintenance.”<sup>12</sup> The Implementation Support Unit continues to work with ICTS on the implementation of WISP.V. Due to the current resource constraints within ICTS, the establishment of WISP.V has been held up. The Unit is currently investigating alternative sources of support and expertise to assist with this project.

17. The Implementation Support Unit has assisted the Protocol V Coordinator on Cooperation and Assistance, Mr. Yevgen Lisuchenko, to explore opportunities within other United Nations agencies and relevant organisations to respond to requests for assistance from States.

## **VI. Communications amongst the High Contracting Parties**

18. Official letters, e-mails and the CCW website are the main means of communicating information to High Contracting Parties, international organisations and non-governmental organisations. Ensuring that all High Contracting Parties receive the Implementation Support Unit’s communications has been difficult. This could be assisted by a decision being taken at the CCW Conference for all High Contracting Parties to identify national focal points who would receive the Implementation Support Unit’s communications. In the meantime, the Unit will continue to update its list of contacts. During the CCW Meeting of High Contracting Parties, an updated list will be circulated to High Contracting Parties for their updating and amending.

19. Considerable effort has gone into updating and improving the CCW website ([www.unog.ch/ccw](http://www.unog.ch/ccw)). One area of ongoing work is uploading past documents and statements on to the website. Given the amount of work underway on Protocol V, a separate section has been created for this instrument.

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid., paragraph 33(e).

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., paragraph 40.

## VII. Compliance and reporting

20. At the beginning of this year a letter was sent to all High Contracting Parties reminding them of their reporting obligations under the CCW compliance mechanism, Amended Protocol II and Protocol V. The Implementation Support Unit has continued to maintain the national annual reports databases for Amended Protocol II, Protocol V and CCW Compliance. There have been no requests submitted pursuant to the CCW Compliance mechanism.

21. The Implementation Support Unit provided support to the Protocol V Coordinator on National Reporting, Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill, through participating in a small group meeting on reporting and facilitating the sending of a multilingual message to remind High Contracting Parties to submit their reports.

## VIII. CCW Sponsorship Programme

22. As mandated by the Fourth Review Conference, the Implementation Support worked on guidelines “specifying the modalities of co-operation”<sup>13</sup> on the administration of the Sponsorship Programme. These were agreed between the Coordinator of the Steering Committee for the Sponsorship Programme, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the Unit. The new guidelines place greater responsibility on the Implementation Support Unit concerning identifying the individuals to be sponsored and obtaining the necessary details to enable the GICHD to organise sponsored delegates’ accommodation and travel arrangements. The new guidelines meant that certain tasks were transferred from the GICHD to the Implementation Support Unit and this has resulted in the Sponsorship Programme being managed more efficiently.

23. The Implementation Support Unit continued to serve as the Secretariat for the Steering Committee of the Sponsorship Programme. This role has included organising meetings of the Steering Committee; drafting minutes and reports; researching possible alternative options for the administration of the Sponsorship Programme;<sup>14</sup> identifying and presenting the candidates to be sponsored; and preparing letters to High Contracting Parties seeking financial support for the Programme. The Implementation Support Unit also prepared the “Report of the Sponsorship Programme”.<sup>15</sup> Three meetings of the Steering Committee were organised in 2012.

24. As in the past, the Implementation Support Unit has continued to organise briefings for the sponsored delegates and to ensure that they were informed on the CCW’s objectives and how to join the regime. This year the Implementation Support Unit has been more proactive on ensuring that sponsored delegates participate in the work of the meetings of experts and there is follow-up on the matter of universalization. For example, the Implementation Support Unit supported the Coordinators and requested that sponsored delegates make presentations on their challenges and progress towards joining and/or implementing the provisions of Amended Protocol II and Protocol V. Also, the Unit prepared and facilitated the sending of messages from the Coordinator of the Steering Committee to delegates that had been sponsored to attend CCW meetings to specifically ask about their progress towards joining the Convention and its Protocols.

<sup>13</sup> CCW/CONF.IV/4/Add.1, annex II, paragraph 5(d).

<sup>14</sup> Ibid, paragraph 5(e).

<sup>15</sup> CCW/MSP/2012/7, dated 14 September 2012.

## **IX. Conclusions**

25. In accordance with its mandate, the Implementation Support Unit has provided administrative support and prepared documents for all CCW meetings; facilitated communications amongst High Contracting Parties and international organisations; continued to maintain the CCW website and databases; has been ready to facilitate the consultations under Article 11(2) of Protocol V, Article 14(4) of Amended Protocol II and the CCW compliance mechanism; contributed to the promotion of universalization and supported the CCW Sponsorship Programme. The Unit has endeavored to fulfill the directions and needs of High Contracting Parties in servicing three meetings of experts, preparing for three annual conferences and both promoting and implementing the Convention and its six Protocols. The ISU stands ready to continue to pursue these goals, as well as any additional ones mandated to it by the High Contracting Parties.

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