
**Eighth 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**

12 December 2014

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Item 15 of the agenda

Consideration and adoption of the final document

Final document

I Introduction

1. Article 10 (1) and (2) of Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) states the following:

“1. The High Contracting Parties undertake to consult and co-operate with each other on all issues related to the operation of this Protocol. For this purpose, a Conference of High Contracting Parties shall be held as agreed to by a majority, but no less than eighteen High Contracting Parties.

2. The work of the conferences of High Contracting Parties shall include:

- (a) Review of the status and operation of this Protocol;
- (b) Consideration of matters pertaining to national implementation of this Protocol, including national reporting or updating on an annual basis;
- (c) Preparation for review conferences.”

2. By resolution A/C.1/69/L.33 adopted by the First Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations emphasized “the importance of the universalization of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V),” and welcomed “the commitment of States parties to the Protocol [...] to the effective and efficient implementation of the Protocol [...]” It also requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations “to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required [...], as well as for any continuation of work after the meetings.”

3. The Fourth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, CCW/CONF.IV/4/Add.1, encouraged the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V to “continue their much needed work on implementation in the areas of the clearance of explosive remnants of war, including existing explosive remnants of war as referred to in Article 7, recording and transferring information on explosive ordnance and abandoned explosive ordnance under Article 4, generic preventive measures, victim assistance,

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cooperation and assistance, national reporting as well as the maintenance of the Web-based Information System for Protocol V (WISP.V).”

4. The Eighth Conference for Protocol V was prepared for by a Meeting of Experts, which took place from 3 to 4 April 2014 in Geneva, as decided by the Seventh Conference in paragraph 36 of its final document, CCW/P.V/CONF/2013/11.

5. The Seventh Conference decided, as stipulated in paragraph 37 of its Final Document that the Meeting of Experts should especially focus on the following issues:

(a) Clearance, removal or destruction of ERW, pursuant to Article 3 of the Protocol, and Article 4, under the overall responsibility of the Coordinator, Mr. Ivan Grinevich of Belarus;

(b) Cooperation and assistance and requests for assistance pursuant to Article 7 of the Protocol, under the overall responsibility of Ms. Markéta Homolková of the Czech Republic;

(c) Generic preventive measures, pursuant to Article 9 and the Technical Annex of the Protocol, under the overall responsibility of the Coordinator, Mr. Jim Burke, Colonel, of Ireland;

(d) National reporting, pursuant to Article 10 (2) (b) of the Protocol under the overall responsibility of the Coordinator, Mr. Lode Dewaegheneire, Major Aviateur, of Belgium; and

(e) Victim assistance, pursuant to Article 8(2) of the Protocol, under the overall responsibility of the Coordinator, Ms. Maria Victoria Picazo of Argentina, and Friend of the Coordinator, Mr. Fernando Guzman of Chile.

6. The Seventh Conference also decided, as stipulated in paragraph 25 of its final document, that the Secretary-General of the United Nations and President of the Eighth Conference, to exercise their authority to achieve the goal of universality of the Protocol.

7. The First Conference decided, as stipulated in paragraph 42 of its final document, CCW/P.V/CONF/2007/1 that the work of the meetings of experts shall be considered by the conferences of the High Contracting Parties to be held annually.

8. The 2013 Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention in paragraph 33 of its final document decided that the Eighth Conference of Protocol V would be held on 10 and 11 November 2014.

9. The Seventh Conference also decided in paragraph 39 of its final document, to nominate Ms. Kateřina Sequešová, Ambassador of Czech Republic as President-designate of the Eighth Conference.

II. Participation in the Eighth Conference

10. The Eighth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War was convened at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 10 and 11 November 2014.

11. The following High Contracting Parties to Protocol V participated in the work of the Conference: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lichtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation,

Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America and Uruguay.

12. The following States for which the Protocol has not yet entered into force participated in the work of the Conference: Greece and Iraq.

13. The following High Contracting Parties to the Convention participated in the work of the Conference as observers: Israel, Japan, Jordan, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Philippines, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

14. The following State Signatory participated in the work of the Conference as observer: Egypt.

15. The representatives of Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Lebanon, Libya, Myanmar, Namibia, Singapore, Thailand and Yemen participated in the work of the Conference as observers.

16. The representatives of the following organizations also took part in the work of the Conference as observers: European Union, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), International Committee of the Red Cross, and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

17. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations and other entities also took part in the work of the Conference as observers: Article 36, Geneva Call, Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preachers), HALO Trust, Human Rights Watch, International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Mines Advisory Group, Norwegian People's Aid, Pax, Pax Christi International, and Pax Christi Ireland.

III. Work of the Eighth Conference

18. The Eighth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War was opened on the morning of 10 November 2014 by Mr. Jan Knutsson, Ambassador of Sweden.

19. The Conference held four plenary meetings. At its first plenary meeting, the Conference confirmed the nomination of Ambassador Kateřina Sequensová as President of the Eighth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V. It also nominated Mr. Alfonso Morales, Ambassador of Ecuador, and Mr. Henk Cor van der Kwast, Ambassador of the Netherlands as Vice-Presidents.

20. At the same plenary meeting, the Conference adopted its agenda, (CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/1) and programme of work (CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/2). In confirming its Rules of Procedure, as contained in CCW/P.V/CONF/2013/10, the Conference in accordance with paragraph 42 of the final document of the Seventh Conference decided to suspend Rule 2.

21. Mr. Bantan Nugroho, Head of the Implementation Support Unit, served as Secretary-General of the Conference. Ms. Hine-Wai Loose served as Secretary.

22. The following delegations participated in the general exchange of views: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, Holy See, India, Iraq, Kuwait, Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Switzerland, European Union, United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

23. Pursuant to the decision by the First Conference to establish a database on Protocol V, in accordance with its Article 10 (2) (b), consisting of the national reports, annual or immediate updates of the national reports, and/or summary cover pages, if applicable, on matters pertaining to the implementation of Protocol V, as stipulated in paragraphs 24 to 28 of its final document (CCW/P.V/CONF/2007/1), the Conference had before it national annual reports from the following States: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay, and United States of America.

24. During the course of the meeting the Conference considered documents CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/1 to CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/9 as set out in annex III. The documents of the Conference are available in all official languages through the Official Document System of the United Nations at <http://documents.un.org>, and the website of the CCW Protocol V at <http://www.unog.ch/ccw>.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

A. Universalization

25. The Eighth Conference welcomed the States, which have consented to be bound by Protocol V since the Seventh Conference: Greece and Iraq. The Eighth Conference welcomed the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the Eighth Conference, organizations, the CCW Sponsorship Programme, and the Implementation Support Unit to promote universalization of Protocol V.

26. The Conference recommended that the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President-designate of the Ninth Conference, on behalf of the High Contracting Parties, exercise their authority to achieve the goal of universality of Protocol V. The Conference also called on the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V and the CCW Implementation Support Unit to promote wider adherence to Protocol V, pursuant to the Accelerated Plan of Action on Universalization of the Convention and its annexed Protocols as adopted by the Fourth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention.

B. Clearance, removal or destruction of explosive remnants of war

27. The Conference took note of the report by the Coordinator on Clearance, Removal or Destruction of ERW, as contained in CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/3.

28. The Conference decided:

(a) To continue the consideration of clearance, removal or destruction of ERW and capacity building in these areas in the context of the meetings of experts and conferences of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V.

(b) To encourage affected High Contracting Parties to provide updates on their implementation of ongoing national programmes in the fields of surveillance, clearance and destruction of ERW.

(c) To continue the exchange of information on the most difficult explosive ordnance disposal clearance operations, such as clearance in sand desert areas and the areas where intensive battles took place.

(d) To continue the exchange of information on the implementation of Article 4 in the context of meetings of experts and the conferences of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V.

(e) To continue to further address all aspects of the obligations of Article 4 in conjunction with Article 11 in a session of the meeting of experts to support all High Contracting Parties to implement appropriate operating procedures and instructions and provide training to their military personnel.

(f) To consider possible measures on how to improve existing mechanisms for the transmission of information under Article 4 and how to further improve the quality of the information which is subject for submission under Article 4, taking into account the impact of international governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations with expertise in surveying and clearance of ERW.

C. Cooperation and assistance and requests for assistance

29. The Conference took note of the report by the Coordinator on Cooperation and Assistance and Requests for Assistance, as contained in CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/4.

30. The Conference decided:

(a) To encourage those High Contracting Parties, relevant international organizations and institutions in a position to do so to provide cooperation and assistance for addressing the impact of explosive remnants of war, which continues to be the explosive devices that cause the highest numbers of new casualties and victims each year.

(b) To encourage States which have outlined their needs for assistance in either formal requests for assistance or statements to the Meeting of Experts to ensure they have specified their exact needs and provide regular updates on the status of those requests.

(c) To encourage both donor and affected High Contracting Parties to submit information relating to Articles 7 and 8 in their national reports.

(d) The Coordinator with the assistance of the CCW Implementation Support Unit to focus on those High Contracting Parties requiring assistance with the surveillance of ERW contamination and the management of munitions sites. The CCW Implementation Unit to be tasked with ensuring that affected States are aware of all available channels for seeking cooperation and assistance.

D. Generic preventive measures

31. The Conference took note of the report by the Coordinator on Generic preventive measures, pursuant to Article 9 and the Technical Annex of the Protocol, as contained in CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/5.

32. The Conference decided:

(a) All High Contracting Parties are encouraged to implement Part 3 of the Technical Annex to Protocol V, report on such work in their Protocol V national annual reports and implement the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines on a voluntary basis.

(b) All High Contracting Parties are encouraged to continue to focus on the management of munitions sites at the 2015 Meeting of Experts including consideration of the questions posed in the Coordinator's report.

(c) The Coordinator with the support of the CCW Implementation Support will continue to follow-up with High Contracting Parties that had not yet reported on their implementation of generic preventive measures.

(d) The Coordinator should consult with those High Contracting Parties and relevant organisations that are in a position to provide assistance to other states on the management of munitions sites.

E. National reporting

33. The Conference took note of the report by the Coordinator on national reporting, pursuant to Article 10 (2) (b) of the Protocol, as contained in CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/8.

34. The Conference decided:

(a) All High Contracting Parties and observer States are called on to submit national annual reports and in preparing those reports are encouraged to use the Protocol V Guide to National Reporting.

(b) To merge Forms E and F of the National Reporting Form and for the Coordinator with the support of the CCW Implementation Support Unit to encourage High Contracting Parties to utilise the new form on cooperation and assistance.

(c) The Coordinator with the support of the CCW Implementation Support Unit to ensure that the Guide to National Reporting reflects the recent changes made to the National Reporting Form.

(d) For the Coordinator with the support of the CCW Implementation Support Unit to follow-up with those High Contracting Parties that have not yet reported and to examine the reporting under Form C on Article 5 – other precautions for the protection of the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian objects from the risks and effects of ERW.

F. Victim assistance

35. The Conference took note of the report by the Coordinator on Victim Assistance, as contained in CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/9.

36. The Conference decided:

(a) To continue to focus on the implementation of the Article 8(2) of Protocol V and the Plan of Action on Victim Assistance, especially the need for affected States to include victims in their overall national disabilities and development frameworks.

(b) To continue to exchange practical experiences and lessons learned on victim assistance with other relevant legal instruments.

(c) To follow-up with those affected States that have not yet submitted Form F (a) of the national reporting form.

(d) To invite the High Contracting Parties of the Convention meeting in 2015 to share views on a voluntary basis on victim assistance based on the experiences of Protocol V.

G. Follow-up

37. The Conference decided that the next Meeting of Experts shall take place from 7 to 8 April 2015 in Geneva.

38. The Conference decided that this meeting should especially focus on the following issues:

(a) Clearance, removal or destruction of ERW, pursuant to Article 3 of the Protocol, and Article 4 under the overall responsibility of the Coordinator, Ms. Diana Kazina of Latvia;

(b) Victim assistance, pursuant to Article 8 (2) of the Protocol, under the overall responsibility of the Coordinator, Mr. Julio Mercado of Argentina, and Friend of the Coordinator, Mr. Fernando Guzman of Chile;

(c) Cooperation and assistance and requests for assistance pursuant to Article 7 of the Protocol, under the overall responsibility of the President-designate of the Ninth Conference;

(d) National reporting, pursuant to Article 10 (2) (b) of the Protocol under the overall responsibility of Mr. Lode Dewaegheneire, Major Aviateur, of Belgium; and

(e) Generic preventive measures, pursuant to Article 9 and the Technical Annex of the Protocol, under the overall responsibility of Mr. Jim Burke, Colonel, of Ireland.

39. The Conference decided that, in implementing the Accelerated Plan of Action on Universalization of the Convention and its annexed Protocols as adopted by the Fourth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, the Meeting of Experts should consider the issue of the universalization of Protocol V under the overall responsibility of the President-designate of the Ninth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V.

40. The Conference decided to nominate Mr. M. Shameem Ahsan, Ambassador of Bangladesh, as President-designate of the Ninth Conference, and Mr. Rytis Paulauskas, Ambassador of Lithuania, and Mr. Henk Cor van der Kwast, Ambassador of the Netherlands as Vice-Presidents-designates.

41. The Conference considered and approved a provisional agenda of the Ninth Conference, as contained in annex I. The Conference adopted the estimated costs of the 2015 Meeting of Experts and Ninth Conference, as contained in CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/7 and CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/6. The dates for the Ninth Conference would be determined by the 2014 Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention.

42. At its fourth plenary meeting, the Ninth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War adopted its final document as contained in CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/CRP.1, as orally amended, which is being issued as document CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/10.

Annex I

Provisional agenda of the Ninth Conference

(As recommended by the Eighth Conference at its fourth plenary meeting on 11 November 2014)

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of the President
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Confirmation of the rules of procedure
5. Appointment of the Secretary-General of the Conference
6. Organization of work including that of any subsidiary bodies of the Conference
7. Election of other officers of the Conference
8. General exchange of views
9. Review of the status and operation of the Protocol
10. Consideration of matters pertaining to national implementation of the Protocol, including national reporting or updating on an annual basis
11. Preparation for review conferences
12. Report(s) of any subsidiary organ(s)
13. Adoption of the cost estimates for 2016
14. Other matters
15. Consideration and adoption of the final document

Annex II

List of States which have notified the Depositary of their consent to be bound by Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War

<i>(As at 11 November 2014) State Party</i>	<i>Date of notification of consent to be bound</i>
Albania	12 May 2006
Argentina	7 October 2011
Australia	4 January 2007
Austria	1 October 2007
Belarus	29 September 2008
Belgium	25 January 2010
Bosnia and Herzegovina	28 November 2007
Brazil	30 November 2010
Bulgaria	7 November 2005
Burundi	13 July 2012
Cameroon	7 December 2010
Canada	19 May 2009
Chile	18 August 2009
China	10 June 2010
Costa Rica	27 April 2009
Croatia	7 February 2005
Cyprus	11 March 2010
Czech Republic	6 June 2006
Denmark	28 June 2005
Dominican Republic	21 June 2010
Ecuador	10 March 2009
El Salvador	23 March 2006
Estonia	18 December 2006
Finland	23 March 2005
France	31 October 2006
Gabon	22 September 2010
Georgia	22 December 2008
Germany	3 March 2005
Guinea-Bissau	6 August 2008
Holy See	13 December 2005
Honduras	16 August 2010

<i>(As at 11 November 2014) State Party</i>	<i>Date of notification of consent to be bound</i>
Hungary	13 November 2006
Iceland	22 August 2008
India	18 May 2005
Ireland	8 November 2006
Italy	11 February 2010
Jamaica	25 September 2008
Kuwait	24 May 2013
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2 February 2012
Latvia	16 September 2009
Liberia	16 September 2005
Liechtenstein	12 May 2006
Lithuania	29 September 2004
Luxembourg	13 June 2005
Madagascar	14 March 2008
Mali	24 April 2009
Malta	22 September 2006
Netherlands	18 July 2005
New Zealand	2 October 2007
Nicaragua	15 September 2005
Norway	8 December 2005
Pakistan	3 February 2009
Panama	29 November 2010
Paraguay	3 December 2008
Peru	29 May 2009
Poland	26 September 2011
Portugal	22 February 2008
Qatar	16 November 2009
Republic of Korea	23 January 2008
Republic of Moldova	21 April 2008
Romania	29 January 2008
Russian Federation	21 July 2008
Saudi Arabia	8 January 2010
Senegal	6 November 2008
Sierra Leone	30 September 2004
Slovakia	23 March 2006
Slovenia	22 February 2007

<i>(As at 11 November 2014) State Party</i>	<i>Date of notification of consent to be bound</i>
South Africa	24 January 2012
Spain	9 February 2007
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	6 December 2010
Sweden	2 June 2004
Switzerland	12 May 2006
Tajikistan	18 May 2006
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	19 March 2007
Tunisia	7 March 2008
Turkmenistan	23 July 2012
Ukraine	17 May 2005
United Arab Emirates	26 February 2009
United States of America	21 January 2009
Uruguay	7 August 2007
Zambia	25 September 2013

Annex III

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/1 and Corr.1 [English only]	Provisional agenda. Submitted by the President-designate
CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/2	Provisional agenda. Submitted by the President-designate
CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/3	Report. Clearance, Removal or Destruction of Explosive Remnants of War, pursuant to Article 3 and Article 4. Submitted by the Coordinator on Clearance, Removal or Destruction of Explosive Remnants of War, pursuant to Articles 3 and 4 of Protocol V
CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/4	Cooperation and assistance. Submitted by the Coordinator on cooperation and assistance
CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/5	Report on generic preventive measures. Submitted by the Coordinator on generic preventive measures
CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/6	Estimated Costs .Ninth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V 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. Note by the Secretariat
CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/7	Estimated Costs. 2015 Meeting of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V 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. Note by the Secretariat

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/8	Report on national reporting. Submitted by the Coordinator on national reporting
CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/9 and Corr.1	Report on victim assistance. Submitted by the Coordinator and Friend of the Coordinator on victim assistance
CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/10	Final document
CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/INF.1	List of participants
CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/CRP.1 [English only]	Draft final document
CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/MISC.1	Provisional list of participants
