

**GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS OF THE STATES
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**

CCW/GGE/VII/3
23 March 2004

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Seventh Session
Geneva, 8 – 12 March 2004
Item 11 of the agenda

PROCEDURAL REPORT

1. The Meeting of the States 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 (CCW) held at Geneva on 27 and 28 November 2003 decided, as contained in paragraph 26 of CCW/MSP/2003/3, that the Working Group on Explosive Remnants of War would continue its work in the year 2004 with the following mandate:

“To continue to consider the implementation of existing principles of International Humanitarian Law and to further study, on an open-ended basis, and initially with particular emphasis on meetings of military and technical experts, possible preventive measures aimed at improving the design of certain specific types of munitions, including sub-munitions, with a view to minimise the humanitarian risk of these munitions becoming explosive remnants of war. Exchange of information, assistance and co-operation would be part of this work.”

2. At the same Meeting the States Parties decided, as contained in paragraph 27 of CCW/MSP/2003/3, that the Working Group on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines would continue its work in the year 2004 with the following mandate:

“1. To consider all proposals on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines put forward since the establishment of the Group of Governmental Experts with the aim of elaborating appropriate recommendations on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines for submission to the next Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention.

2. Meetings of military experts shall also be conducted to provide advice on these activities.”

3. At the same Meeting the States Parties decided, as contained in paragraph 28 of CCW/MSP/2003/3, that “the Chairman-designate shall undertake consultations during the intersessional period on possible options to promote compliance with the Convention and its annexed Protocols, taking into account proposals put forward, and shall submit a report, adopted by consensus, to the States Parties.”

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4. At the same Meeting the States Parties decided, as contained in paragraph 29 of CCW/MSP/2003/3, “to commission follow-up work under the oversight of the Chairman-designate of a Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention to be held on 18 and 19 November 2004 at Geneva in conjunction with the Sixth Annual Conference of the States Parties to Amended Protocol II.”
5. The Meeting of the States Parties decided, as contained in paragraph 32 of CCW/MSP/2003/3, “to designate Ambassador Gordan Markotić of Croatia as Chairman of the Meeting of the States Parties to be held in 2004, and appointed Ambassador Markku Reimaa of Finland as Coordinator on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines.”
6. The Meeting of the States Parties decided, as contained in paragraph 30 of CCW/MSP/2003/3, that “the intersessional work of the Group of Governmental Experts will be undertaken in three sessions at Geneva during 2004.”
7. The Seventh Session of the Group of Governmental Experts was held at Geneva from 8 to 12 March 2004.
8. On 8 March 2004, the session was opened by the Chairman-designate of the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention to be held on 18 and 19 November 2004, Ambassador Gordan Markotić of Croatia.
9. The Group of Governmental Experts appointed Ambassador Jayant Prasad of India as Coordinator on Explosive Remnants of War.
10. The meetings of the Working Groups of the Group of Governmental Experts were chaired by the two Coordinators: Ambassador Jayant Prasad of India on Explosive Remnants of War, and Ambassador Markku Reimaa of Finland on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines. Mr. Peter Kolarov, Political Affairs Officer, Department for Disarmament Affairs, Geneva Branch, served as Secretary of the Group. He was assisted by Mr. Bantan Nugroho, Political Affairs Officer.
11. At its first plenary meeting, on 8 March 2004, the Group adopted its Agenda (CCW/GGE/VII/1/Rev.1), confirmed the Rules of Procedure as adopted and used by the Second Review Conference (CCW/CONF.II/PC.1/1 with oral amendments) and adopted its Programme of Work (CCW/GGE/VII/2/Rev.1).
12. The Group of Governmental Experts also considered the question of participation, including that of the United Nations agencies, specialized and other agencies and non-governmental organizations in the work of the Group and agreed to exercise the utmost degree of transparency in its activities.
13. The following States Parties to the Convention participated in the work of the Group: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand,

Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

14. The following Signatory States to the Convention also participated in the work of the Group: Egypt, Iceland, Nigeria, Sudan and Vietnam.

15. The following States not parties to the Convention participated as observers: Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Myanmar, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Venezuela and Yemen.

16. The representative of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) took part in the work of the Group.

17. The representatives of the following organisations also took part in the work of the Group: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), African Union, Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Actiongroup Landmine.de, American Bar Association, Femmes Africa Solidarité, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Handicap International, Human Rights Watch, International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), Landmine Action UK, Mines Action Canada, Pax Christi, Protection and Swiss Campaign to Ban Landmines.

18. The Group held two plenary meetings. At its first plenary meeting, the following States participated in a general exchange of views: Argentina, Australia, China, Cuba, Holy See, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, with alignment by the Acceding States (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia), the Candidate Countries (Bulgaria and Romania), the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro), as well as the EFTA country (Liechtenstein), member of the European Economic Area), Japan, Pakistan, Norway, Switzerland, Russian Federation, Ukraine and United States of America. The ICBL also participated in the general exchange of views.

19. The Working Group on Explosive Remnants of War held two meetings and discussed a working paper presented by the Coordinator as contained in CCW/GGE/VII/WG.1/WP.1. It also held one meeting of military experts under the chairmanship of Lt. Col. Bernard Jeanty of Switzerland.

20. The Working Group on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines held three meetings. It also held one meeting of military experts under the chairmanship of Col. Juhani Kääriäinen of Finland and discussed a working paper presented by the Coordinator entitled "Military Experts Meeting: Tentative list of areas for discussion" as contained in CCW/GGE/VII/WG.2/ WP.1.

21. In accordance with the decisions taken at the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention in 2003 (CCW/MSP/2003/3) one meeting was devoted to the consideration of options to promote compliance with the Convention, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Gordan Markotić.

22. During the course of the session, the Working Group on Explosive Remnants of War considered working papers CCW/GGE/VII/WG.1/WP.1 to CCW/GGE/VII/WG.1/WP.4 and the Working Group on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines considered working papers CCW/GGE/VII/WG.2/WP.1 to CCW/GGE/VII/WG.2/WP.6, as listed in Annex II. These documents are available in all official languages through the United Nations Official Documents System (<http://www.ods.unog.ch>).

23. During the session Germany and Switzerland informed about the “International Workshop on Preventive Technical Measures for Munitions”, to be held in Thun, Switzerland, from 26 to 28 May 2004 and that official invitations to the Workshop would be extended via diplomatic channels.

24. The Working Group on Explosive Remnants of War heard a presentation by Human Rights Watch entitled “Off Target: The Conduct of the War and Civilian Casualties in Iraq”. The Working Group on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines heard presentations by the United States of America on “Detectability”, “US Mine Systems Self-Destruct (SD) Assurance”, “SD/SDA Mechanisms”, “Lithium Batteries” and on the new US policy on landmines; and by Australia on “Landmine Detection Technology”. UNMAS also made a presentation entitled “Current and Future Technology for MOTAPM Detection and Clearance”.

25. As decided by the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention in November 2003, the Group will hold its eighth session from 5 to 16 July 2004 and the ninth session from 8 to 16 November 2004.

26. At the second plenary meeting, on 12 March 2004, the Group of Governmental Experts adopted its procedural report, as contained in document CCW/GGE/VII/ CRP.1, as orally amended, which is being issued as document CCW/GGE/VII/3.

Annex I

AGENDA
of the Group of Governmental Experts in 2004
as adopted during the first plenary meeting on 8 March 2004

1. Opening of the Session by the Chairman-designate of the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention to be held on November 18-19, 2004
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Confirmation of the Rules of Procedure
4. Question of participation
5. Organization of work of the Group of Governmental Experts
6. Background documentation
7. Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)
8. Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM)
9. Possible options to promote compliance with the Convention and its annexed Protocols
10. Any other issues
11. Adoption of procedural report

Annex II

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS
OF THE GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS
SEVENTH SESSION, 8 - 12 MARCH 2004**

Number	Title	Countries/ Organizations
CCW/GGE/VII/1/Rev.1	Revised Provisional Agenda	Chairman-designate
CCW/GGE/VII/2/Rev.1	Revised Draft Programme of Work	Chairman-designate
CCW/GGE/VII/3	Procedural Report	Secretariat
CCW/GGE/VII/WG.1/WP.1	Note by the Coordinator	Coordinator on ERW
CCW/GGE/VII/WG.1/WP.2	Proposal for the Structuring of IHL/ERW Discussions during CCW Experts' Meetings in 2004	Sweden
CCW/GGE/VII/WG.1/WP.3	Questions and Issues with regard to Preventive Technical Measures for Certain Specific Types of Explosive Ordnance	Switzerland
CCW/GGE/VII/WG.1/WP.3/Corr.1 (English only)	Questions and Issues with regard to Preventive Technical Measures for Certain Specific Types of Explosive Ordnance - Corrigendum	Switzerland
CCW/GGE/VII/WG.1/WP.4	Exchange of Information on a Voluntary Basis on Protocol V	Netherlands
CCW/GGE/VII/WG.2/WP.1	Military Experts Meeting: Tentative List of Areas for Discussion	Coordinator on MOTAPM
CCW/GGE/VII/WG.2/WP.2	Landmine Detection Technology	Australia
CCW/GGE/VII/WG.2/WP.2/Corr.1 (English only)	Landmine Detection Technology - Corrigendum	Australia

CCW/GGE/VII/WG.2/WP.3	A Common Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines	UNMAS on behalf of the IACG-MA
CCW/GGE/VII/WG.2/WP.3/Corr.1 (English only)	A Common Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines	UNMAS on behalf of the IACG-MA
CCW/GGE/VII/WG.2/WP.4	Current and Future Technology for MOTAPM Detection and Clearance	UNMAS
CCW/GGE/VII/WG.2/WP.5	Two New Articles on International Cooperation and Assistance and on Transparency Measures	Lithuania
CCW/GGE/VII/WG.2/WP.6	Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use and Transfer of Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines	Secretariat
CCW/GGE/VII/CRP.1	Draft Procedural Report	Secretariat
CCW/GGE/VII/MISC.1	Provisional List of Participants	Secretariat

For technical questions on how to obtain the above documents, contact the UN ODS via E-mail at <http://www.ods.unog.ch/ods/>. Access to ODS is free for staff members of the United Nations Secretariat, for a limited number of users in specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, and for up to 20 users in Member States of the United Nations. Requests for access can be submitted to the following person:

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Annex III

[English/French/Spanish only]

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