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

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Working Group on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines

Military Experts Meeting: Tentative list of areas for discussion

Prepared at the request of the Coordinator

I. Purpose of the meeting:

1. To discuss all technical aspects of MOTAPMs at the military experts level in order to support and advice the considerations of the Group of Governmental Experts with a view to reducing the risk of MOTAPMs to non-combatants.

2. The list of topics and questions put forward below is neither exhaustive nor exclusive, they serve merely to act as an aid memoire for the military experts of State Parties about the possible issues they may wish to address.

3. In order to facilitate discussion, it is suggested that the military experts start discussions by focusing on Fuse standards, sensitive fuses and the issues regarding batteries. Other topics of importance to the process are also listed below.

II. Technical factors affecting the reliability and availability of MOTAPMs:

- What are the operational requirements taken into account when designing MOTAPM?
- Is it possible to establish minimum and maximum operational lifetime for MOTAPMS?
- How long should MOTAPMs be deployed for?
- What are the major factors which effect procurement and life cycle (storage, testing, disposal) costs?
- What impact do environmental factors (climate, storage environment) have on MOTAPM reliability?
- What are the factors and limitations that affect deployment of MOTAPM?
- What are the technical limitations regarding the use of batteries from the military requirements perspective? Lifetime issues? Other technical aspects, such as introduction of batteries to existing mines? What are the military experiences with respect to environmental conditions affecting the effectiveness of batteries?

III. Sensitive fuses and fuse standards:

- Which of the existing fuses are more likely to cause humanitarian effects, if any? What makes some fuses more dangerous than others regarding humanitarian aspects?
- How can fuses be categorised?
- Are there any military implications in the establishing categories of technical specifications for fuse and sensor mechanisms?
- What would be the military benefits/implications of multi-sensor fuses in comparison to the humanitarian benefits/implications?
- What kind of technical measures or restrictions/prohibitions could be taken with respect to those fuses presenting a particular humanitarian threat?

IV. Other topics for the consideration of military experts are:

- Military consideration in marking, fencing and monitoring? What are the military experiences with respect to remotely delivered mines and mine fields? Types of marking? How effectively can mine fields be marked in conflict? Are there any other measures that military forces could use to restrict the humanitarian impact of MOTAPM, apart from marking and fencing, for example the provision of risk education?

- What are the methods used for recording information? Are these records easily transferable to humanitarian organisations to facilitate clearance operations?

- What are the military implications of all MOTAPMs having a minimum content of metal?

- What are the technical issues to be considered from the military perspective in the requirements for detection?
  - What is the estimated number of mines currently non-detectable? What kind of detection equipment is currently in use?
  - Which methods of detection are most common? Are methods of detection common to both military and humanitarian clearance operations?
  - What are the preferred methods of clearance for military forces in a time of conflict, how would these be affected by changes to metal content in mines?
  - Are there any future methods of detection likely to emerge in the next ten years that will supersede current technologies – will such technologies be available to the humanitarian sector, if so when?

- What are the military advantages of anti-handling or anti-disturbance devices? What could be done to minimise the threat to civilians from these devices?

- Technicalities with respect to self-destruct mechanisms? Are there any humanitarian risks from self-destruct mechanisms and can this be quantified. Military benefits in comparison to humanitarian concerns? From a military perspective how do self-destruct mechanisms affect the flexibility of forces. Do these mechanisms have any cost efficiency implications?

- What effect would any further restrictions on MOTAPMs have on tactics and doctrines of the defence forces? (restriction of use to national territory, capabilities, effectiveness of mines, alternatives to mines)

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