

**THIRD 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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Item 10 of the provisional agenda

Review of the status and operation of the Protocol

REPORT ON GENERIC PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Submitted by the Coordinator¹ on Generic Preventive measures, pursuant to Article 9 and the Technical Annex of the Protocol

1. The Second Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V (Geneva, 10 and 11 November 2008) decided "to invite the Coordinator to undertake open-ended consultations with a view to identify how to make the best use of the existing theory and practice and to develop possible recommendations for further progress in the field of preventive technical measures. In doing so, the Meeting of Experts shall focus, in particular on the proposal contained in CCW/P.V/CONF/2008/7 entitled "Generic Preventive Measures", presented by France."²
2. In fulfilling its mandate, the 2009 Meeting of Experts (Geneva, 22 to 24 April 2009) built on the work done in 2008 and turned to more specific objectives. It allowed delegations to reach a better understanding on how to implement Article 9 and Part 3 of the Technical Annex and provided them with an opportunity to address some specific issues. Thanks to a free-flowing exchange of views among experts, the Meeting has helped in identifying solutions that may concretely facilitate the implementation of Protocol V at the national level.
3. Three topics were initially on the agenda of the Meeting of Experts, namely:
 - (a) The generic questionnaire contained in the document "Generic Preventive Measures" referred to in our mandate;
 - (b) The specific issue of ammunition storage;
 - (c) An exchange of views on national approaches to implement Article 9 and Part 3 of the Technical Annex.

¹ In accordance with the relevant decision of the Second Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War, as contained in paragraph 46 (e) of its Final Document (CCW/P.V/CONF/2008/12) the discussion on Generic Preventive measures, pursuant to Article 9 and the Technical Annex of the Protocol was coordinated by Col. Jean-Christophe Le Roux of France.

² CCW/P.V/CONF/2008/12, paragraph 44.

4. Due to lack of time, it was deemed preferable to focus on the first two issues. A more comprehensive report of the work done under these two topics is provided hereafter.

I. The Generic Questionnaire

5. The Second Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V requested the Meeting of Experts to focus more particularly on the proposal/concept contained in the document CCW/P.V/CONF/2008/7. This document introduced by France puts forward a pragmatic approach to developing and implementing generic preventive measures throughout the life-cycle of munitions. This approach is twofold: firstly, it consists in a methodology reflecting a common understanding of the most advisable way to apply generic preventive measures; secondly, it consists in a check-list, or questionnaire, which serves as a guideline to concretely implement the methodology and describe the measures, which could be applied at every stage of the life cycle of ammunitions. The document is intended to offer a practical and optimal solution to ensure an effective implementation of Article 9.

6. The Group had an in-depth exchange of views both on the concept and on the substance of the proposed draft, which led to the following conclusions:

- (a) Firstly, the proposed elaboration of a **“Guide for the implementation of Part 3 of the Technical Annex”** aimed at assisting the States in implementing the Technical Annex related to Article 9 of the Protocol was endorsed by the Meeting.
- (b) Secondly, the Meeting of Experts carried out an in-depth review of the draft Guide and amendments proposed led to substantial improvements. A consolidated version was issued and distributed for further reflection at the end of the meeting. Even though significant progress was achieved in drafting the Guide and incorporating the suggestions, the experts were of the view that more work was needed in order to reach an agreement at a political level.

II. Dealing with one particular topic: Ammunition Storage

7. The Meeting of Experts selected the issue of ammunition storage for a more detailed technical discussion.

8. The topic was introduced in two presentations by the following experts:

- (a) Ms Vera Bohle, of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), which recently issued the “Guide to Ammunition Storage”; Ms Bohle’s presentation provided a comprehensive insight of the most important aspects of the overall management of munitions;

- (b) Mr Larry Schultze, of the United States Defence Threat Reduction Agency (US DTRA); Mr. Schultze highlighted some concrete and practical lessons learned worldwide from the implementation of programs aimed at reducing the risk posed by the mismanagement of ammunitions.

9. Both presentations and the discussion that followed on this very important topic were highly appreciated by the experts and helped them to get a clearer view of what could be done in order to reduce and prevent the risks associated with ammunition storage. In that sense, it was considered as complementary to the discussions held during the week on this subject.

III. Recommendations

10. The Third Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V may wish to take the following decisions:

- (a) To complete the elaboration of the “Guide for the implementation of Part 3 of the Technical Annex” as contained in the Addendum to this report, with a view of its adoption by the Fourth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V as a best practice for the implementation of Part 3 of the Technical Annex;
 - (b) To pursue with the practice of addressing one specific technical issue directly related to the implementation of Article 9 and Part 3 of the Technical Annex of Protocol V;
 - (c) To invite all States parties to share during the 2010 Meeting of Experts their national technical approaches and experience in implementing Article 9 and Part 3 of the technical Annex of Protocol V.
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