

**Fourth 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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Report(s) of any subsidiary organ(s)

**Report on generic preventive measures**

**Submitted by the Coordinator<sup>1</sup> on generic preventive measures, in  
accordance with article 9 and the technical annex of the Protocol**

**I. Introduction**

1. The Third Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V (Geneva, 9 and 10 November 2009) decided “that the 2010 meeting of experts should complete the drafting of the Guide for the implementation of part 3 of the technical annex as contained in CCW/P.V/CONF/2009/2/Add.1, with a view to 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”.
2. It also decided “that the 2010 meeting of experts should continue 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”.
3. Lastly, the Conference “invited 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”.
4. The three objectives set by the Conference of the High Contracting Parties were all dealt with during the meeting of experts held in April 2010.

**II. Guide for the implementation of part 3 of the technical annex**

5. The Third Conference of the High Contracting Parties thus called for the Guide for the implementation of part 3 of the technical annex to be completed this year. Some background to this guide and its mechanism should be presented.

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the relevant decision of the Third Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War as contained in paragraph 54 (f) of its final document (CCW/P.V/CONF/2009/9), the discussion on generic preventive measures, pursuant to article 9 and the technical annex of the Protocol, was coordinated by Mr. Eric Steinmyller (France).

6. The work on this subject began some five years ago, in the groups of experts set up under Protocol V.
7. The Guide puts forward a pragmatic approach to developing and implementing generic preventive measures throughout the life-cycle of munitions. This approach is twofold:
  - (a) Firstly, it consists in a methodology reflecting a common understanding of the most advisable way to apply generic preventive measures; and
  - (b) Secondly, it consists in a **list of recommendations, in the form of a questionnaire**, which serves as a guideline to concretely implement the methodology and to describe the measures which may be applied at every stage of the life cycle of munitions. The document is intended to offer a practical and optimal solution to ensure the effective implementation of article 9.
8. The experts,<sup>2</sup> who were later appointed by the Conferences of the High Contracting Parties as coordinators on generic preventive measures, carried out this exacting work with the help of all delegations.
9. The Second Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V (Geneva, 10 and 11 November 2008) requested that the meeting of experts focus more particularly on the proposal contained in document CCW/P.V/CONF/2008/7, submitted by France.
10. This work was about to be completed for the Third Conference of the High Contracting Parties in 2009 when some interesting suggestions were made and were taken on board. The experts then decided in April 2009 to continue the work in 2010.
11. In April 2010 Mr. Franck Decobecq, the expert for the arms and munitions directorate of the Ministry of Defence (France), at the centre of this project, presented the latest version of the document, which was then the subject of some final and useful exchanges of views between the experts. As a result it was possible to finalize the text as presented in CCW/P.V/CONF/2010/6/Add.1. The work was deemed by consensus to be complete at this stage, and thus ready for presentation to the Fourth Conference of the High Contracting Parties, to be adopted and subsequently recommended for introduction in States parties' national systems as a best practice.

### **III. Dealing with one particular topic: munitions management and discussions of national approaches**

12. The meeting of experts selected the issue of munitions management for a more detailed technical discussion.
13. This topic was discussed in three presentations, given by the following experts:
  - (a) Lieutenant-Colonel Nikolay Nikolov of the National Defence Academy of Bulgaria presented Bulgaria's experience in dealing with explosive remnants of war, the problems caused by large stocks of surplus arms, recent incidents involving explosions of munitions storage facilities and the remarkable progress made by his country in tackling these problems;
  - (b) Lieutenant-Colonel Olivier Viallade, the head of the munitions office of the French army, explained how the French armed forces applied generic preventive measures to avoid producing explosive remnants of war, emphasizing how munitions were managed in the theatres where French forces were engaged (for example, management of transport, storage, delivery and elimination of stocks in combat zones);

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<sup>2</sup> Colonel Marcel Mulder, Netherlands, and Colonel Jean-Christophe Le Roux, France.

(c) Mr. Henrik Markus of the Slovakian Permanent Mission in Geneva spoke about the case of a factory in Nováky, Slovakia, which had been the scene of an accident in which 1,200 tons of explosives had blown up, killing eight people. The Slovakian authorities had done an excellent job of drawing lessons from this tragic accident. The lessons were shared with the meeting of experts.

14. These three presentations and the discussion which followed on this very important topic were highly appreciated by the experts and helped them to obtain a clearer and more pragmatic view of what could be done to reduce and prevent risks related to munitions management in terms of storage, transport and operational delivery, etc.

15. The presentations also gave the delegations a basis with which to begin sharing information on technical approaches and experience in applying article 9 of Protocol V and part 3 of its technical annex, which was the third objective set by the Conference for the Coordinator on generic preventive measures.

## **IV. Recommendations**

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

(a) To adopt the Guide for the implementation of part 3 of the technical annex, the text of which is reproduced in document CCW/P.V/CONF/2010/6/Add.1, and to recommend that it be implemented in the national systems of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V as a best practice;

(b) To continue 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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