

**Twelfth Annual Conference
of the High Contracting Parties to
Amended Protocol II 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**

18 November 2010

Original: English

Geneva, 24 November 2010
Item 12 of the provisional agenda
Report(s) of any subsidiary organ(s)

**Report
Improvised Explosive Devices**

Submitted by the Coordinator¹

I. Introduction

1. The Group of Experts of the States Parties to CCW Amended Protocol II (the Group) met on Monday, 19 April and Tuesday, 20 April 2010 in Geneva and continued substantive discussions on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in accordance with the mandate contained in the 2009 report submitted by the Friend of the President on Improvised Explosive Devices (CCW/AP.II/CONF.11/2).
2. Delegations welcomed the continued discussion on IEDs in the CCW framework given the fact that IEDs pose a significant threat to civilian population, military forces, and infrastructure, and also hamper socioeconomic development in many regions.

II. Trends and challenges

3. The Group's discussion was structured along an informal discussion paper (Discussion Paper #1 titled "Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)" Food-for-Thought Paper), which was intended to stimulate delegations to continue engaging in the Group's work. As in 2009, the meetings benefited from broad participation by CCW High Contracting Parties, observers as well as experts from international organizations and civil society.
4. With regard to the nature of the threat posed by IEDs, delegations provided further information about various trends regarding both source materials and designs of IEDs, complementing the discussions held by the Group in 2009 and confirming the dynamic and the constantly evolving nature of the threat posed by IEDs. Case studies underlined that ERW and IED incidents often occur in the same theatres and revealed that in some regions casualties from IEDs have surpassed the number of casualties by ERW.

¹ Mr. Reto Wollenmann of Switzerland was named by the Eleventh Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons as Coordinator on Improvised Explosive Devices (IED).

5. The Group recalled the multifaceted humanitarian challenges posed by IEDs and reiterated its concern at the great number of deaths and injuries caused by IEDs, in particular among the civilian population. Delegations referred to the broader humanitarian problem arising from the use of explosive violence in populated areas, where civilian casualties are highly probable. Delegations also expressed concerns at the trend that IEDs are often not directed against legitimate military targets, but instead are increasingly used against civilians and other soft targets. Delegations emphasised that the humanitarian concerns regarding IEDs result from such trends and the way in which such devices and explosives are used rather than from the improvised nature of such devices. Delegations mentioned in this regard the importance of systematically collecting and analyzing data on IED incidents in order to better assess the humanitarian problem posed by IEDs.

6. With regard to preventive measures, the Group discussed a number of practices and procedures to avoid IEDs being made or emplaced. In order to prevent relevant materials from falling into the hands of non-state armed actors, experts and delegations emphasised the importance of the protection and surveillance of conventional arms and ammunition stockpiles and military explosives as well as enhanced controls over other relevant materials.

7. With regard to the protection of civilians, delegations discussed concrete measures to avoid civilians from becoming victims of IEDs. Experts shared information on responsive capacities by the armed forces and other specialised entities. The Group also discussed key provisions of Amended Protocol II and specific measures to protect civilians, including awareness raising activities integrated in Mine Risk Education Programmes and other measures to educate and warn civilians about the IED threat.

8. In its discussions on victim assistance, the Group was able to build on the significant progress achieved in recent years in general and in the CCW framework in particular. In a session chaired jointly between the Coordinator of the Group and the Protocol V Victim Assistance Coordinator, delegations welcomed the possibility of using synergies between the two protocols in the field of Victim Assistance. Delegations recognised the relevance of the 2008 Plan of Action on Victim Assistance of Protocol V for IED victims. Delegations particularly recognised that non-discriminatory and inclusive victim assistance principles and provisions are relevant to improve the situation for IED victims, aiming at the social and economical inclusion of all groups of persons affected by IEDs.

9. Delegations stressed the importance of effective cooperation and assistance mechanisms, inter alia through technical cooperation and exchanges of information on detecting, clearing and destroying IEDs.

III. Recommendations

10. The Twelfth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons may wish to take the following decisions:

(a) Further explore types of IED incidents, the context in which the casualties occur, as well as short-, mid- and long-term effects of such incidents, with a view to contribute to the prevention of future incidents;

(b) Explore specific needs of victims of IED incidents, taking into account relevant elements contained in the 2008 Plan of Action on Victim Assistance of Protocol V, with a view to provide or facilitate the provision of age- and gender-sensitive medical care, rehabilitation, psychological support and adequate assistance for social and economic inclusion in a non- discriminatory manner;

(c) Consider the benefit of establishing a set of practices and procedures to ensure the protection of civilians, highlighting the responsibilities of each High Contracting Party or party to a conflict under Amended Protocol II;

(d) Consider the added value of establishing guidelines to avoid the diversion or illicit use of materials which can be used for IEDs, taking into account existing guidelines, best practices, and other recommendations (such guidelines could inter alia focus on the management of military stockpiles and other relevant materials, considering risks of certain materials and parts known as potential IED components).
