

**Eighth 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**

29 August 2014

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Geneva, 10-11 November 2014

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of matters pertaining to national  
implementation of the Protocol, including national  
reporting or updating on an annual basis**

## **Report on national reporting**

### **Submitted by the Coordinator on national reporting<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Introduction**

1. The submission of national annual reports continues to serve as the central mechanism for promoting transparency under Protocol V. In support of this mechanism, at the Seventh Conference, High Contracting Parties agreed:

(a) All High Contracting Parties and observer States are called on to submit national reports.

(b) High Contracting Parties and observer States are encouraged to use the Guide to National Reporting, which was adopted by the Fourth Conference.

(c) To develop a consolidated, merged forms E and F of the national reporting form for approval at the Eighth Conference of the High Contracting Parties.

(d) The Coordinator with the support of the CCW Implementation Support Unit to ensure that the Guide to National Reporting reflects the recent changes to date made to the national reporting form and to examine the reporting under Article 3 of the Protocol.

#### **Rate of national reporting**

2. Since 2008, 59 out of the total 84 High Contracting Parties have submitted national reports. This represents a reporting rate of 70%. Gradually the reporting rate has been increasing each year. To assist countries with reporting, this year the Coordinator met with several countries that recently became a party to Protocol V, or had not submitted a national report or were considering joining Protocol V. The meetings were an opportunity to explain what was required under each form of the national reporting form and the assistance

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the decision of the Seventh Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War, as contained in paragraph 37(d) of its Final Document (CCW/P.V/CONF/2013/10), the discussions on national reporting were led by Mr. Lode Dewaegheneire, Major Aviateur, of Belgium as Coordinator.



provided by the Guide to National Reporting. The CCW Implementation Support Unit has sent messages to and directly contacted the Permanent Missions of those High Contracting Parties that have not yet submitted a report.

### **Merging forms E and F of the national reporting form**

3. There was a short discussion on merging forms E and F of the national reporting form. This proposal was first addressed in 2013 and there was strong support for it. Form E addresses Article 7 – assistance with respect to existing explosive remnants of war (ERW) and form F addresses Article 8 – cooperation and assistance. The reason for merging these two forms is that reporting can be facilitated by a form that promotes efficiency and requires reporting on the key issues and not simply routinely going through all of the Protocol's articles. There continues to be considerable overlap between the reporting under these two forms and confusion amongst States as to what they should be reporting on under form E. At the Meeting of Experts there was consensus on merging these two forms. The revised format can be found in Annex II of the 2013 Reporting on National Reporting (CCW/P.V/CONF/2013/6).

### **Assessment of reporting on Article 3**

4. The CCW Implementation Support Unit assessed the reporting by High Contracting Parties under form A, which covers Article 3 – clearance, removal or destruction of ERW. Even though Article 3 addresses contamination after the entry into force of Protocol V, a number of High Contracting Parties have taken a pragmatic approach and reported on all contamination irrespective of when it occurred. The chart below shows the different sources of contamination that affect High Contracting Parties. It is clear that some States are dealing with extreme contamination. For example, in 2012 Lao People's Democratic Republic recorded that 37% of their territory was contaminated.

<i>World War I and World War II</i>	<i>Other conflicts</i>	<i>Testing and training</i>	<i>Accidents</i>	<i>Inherited stocks</i>	<i>Lost stocks</i>
Albania	Albania	Croatia	Croatia	Lithuania	Guatemala
Belarus	Argentina	Norway	Slovakia	Latvia	
Czech Republic	Bosnia and Herzegovina	South Africa	Ukraine	Republic of Moldova	
Estonia	Croatia	Tajikistan		Slovenia	
Finland	Ecuador	Ukraine		Tajikistan	
Hungary	Georgia				
Latvia	Lao People's Democratic Republic				
Lithuania	People's Republic of China				
Malta	Peru				
Romania	Russian Federation				
Slovakia	Saudi Arabia				

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Ukraine	Tajikistan				

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5. High Contracting Parties with on going clearance programmes are: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Ecuador, Georgia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Peru, People's Republic of China, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

6. From the information presented in form A it is not possible to obtain a reliable figure on the amount of ERW cleared. Some States keep an ongoing tally, while other report on what was cleared in one particular year. Also, some States report on both ERW and landmine contamination.

7. Under Article 3, if a High Contracting Party finds itself in an armed conflict then following hostilities it has an obligation to contribute to the clearance operation. To most effectively fulfil this obligation and prior to entering a conflict, States should prepare for the possibility of needing to contribute to a clearance operation. Some States did set out in form A their "readiness" or "preparedness" for contributing to a clearance operation following a conflict. Other States used the opportunity provided by form A to set out information on clearance operations that they either have or are supporting. States that reported on their readiness to carryout clearance or what they were currently doing to assist clearance operations were: Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Spain, United Arab Emirates and United States of America.

#### **The Guide to national reporting**

8. Work is currently underway to update the Guide to National Reporting and this will be presented to the Eighth Conference.

#### **Recommendations**

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

(a) All High Contracting Parties and observer States are called on to submit national annual reports and in preparing those reports are encouraged to use the Protocol V Guide to National Reporting;

(b) To merge forms E and F of the national reporting form and for the Coordinator with the support of the CCW Implementation Support Unit to encourage High Contracting Parties to utilise the new form on cooperation and assistance;

(c) For the Coordinator with the support of the CCW Implementation Support Unit to follow-up with those High Contracting Parties that have not yet reported and to assess the reporting under form C on Article 5 – other precautions for the protection of the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian objects from the risks and effects of ERW.