

Meeting of the High Contracting 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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**Consideration of the report
of the Implementation Support Unit**

Report of the Implementation Support Unit

Summary

This report provides an account of the activities of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) in 2014. The ISU organised meetings of experts on Amended Protocol II, Protocol V and lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) and provided assistance to the three officeholders and nine coordinators working on these issues; supported work on the implementation of Amended Protocol II and Protocol V; promoted awareness and universalization of the Convention and its Protocols; organised the work of the Sponsorship Programme; and updated the CCW and Protocol V websites.

A. Introduction

1. The Implementation Support Unit continued its operation in 2014, in pursuit of its mandate agreed to by the 2009 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention¹ to “operate in the most efficient way and [...] perform the following tasks:

(a) Provide administrative support to and prepare documentation for meetings agreed by the meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW, Amended Protocol II and Protocol V;

(b) Facilitate communications among High Contracting Parties and, upon request, with international organizations;

(c) Serve as a focal point for submission of information by and to the High Contracting Parties related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols; develop and maintain the CCW website and the CCW databases as directed by the annual Meetings of the High Contracting Parties;

¹ Paragraphs 34 to 37, Final report of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties in 2009, CCW/MSP/2009/5.



(d) Support the High Contracting Parties, on request, in the implementation of the CCW and its Protocols and assist the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the discharge of his/her responsibilities pursuant to Article 11 (2) of Protocol V, Article 14 (4) of Amended Protocol II and the CCW Compliance mechanism;

(e) Contribute to the promotion of the universalization of the CCW and its annexed Protocols and support the High Contracting Parties in the implementation of the CCW Plan of Action for the Universalization of the CCW and its Protocols and the CCW Sponsorship Programme;

(f) Perform any other duty as mandated by the High Contracting Parties of the CCW or its Protocols.”

2. The ISU is located in the Geneva Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, which subsidises the ISU through a range of services which include, financial, logistical, administrative and personnel management. The Branch also facilitates the ISU's compliance with United Nations rules and regulations so as to enhance its effective functioning. The Branch is instrumental in coordinating and liaising with UNOG's relevant services supporting the organization of CCW meetings and conferences. The ISU has two staff members: Mr. Bantan Nugroho, Head of the Unit, and Ms. Hine-Wai Loose, Political Affairs Officer. Mr. Nugroho is responsible for management of the ISU, financial and budgetary matters, Amended Protocol II, CCW compliance reporting, the Sponsorship Programme and universalization. Ms. Loose is responsible for Protocol V, the CCW Meeting of the High Contracting Parties, lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), mines other than anti-personnel mines (MOTAPM), and universalization. The ISU has been assisted by the following interns: Ms. Masumi Patzel (1 September to 19 December 2013), Mr. Philippe Mauger (Amended Protocol II and Protocol V meetings of experts), Mr. Leonard Van Rompaey (15 April to 30 July 2014), Mr. Nazim Khaldi (12 May to 29 August 2014), Ms. Min Zhang (11 August to 21 November 2014).

B. Support for Amended Protocol II and Protocol V

3. For the Group of Experts on Amended Protocol II, which took place from 1 to 2 April, the ISU assisted with the preparation and communication of the intentions of the President-designate and the Coordinators to States and international organisations. The ISU prepared briefings for the President-designate, who was also responsible for the issue of universalization. The ISU also prepared briefings, charts and presentations for the Coordinator on the Operation and status of Amended Protocol II and carried out an analysis of Form D of the national annual reports concerning national legislation on the implementation of the Protocol.

4. The ISU assisted the Co-coordinators with their work on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in implementing their mandate. This involved identifying presenters and organizing a series of small break-out group meetings to further explore what best practices could be developed within the framework of the Amended Protocol II. The ISU continues to maintain the compilation of existing guidelines, best practices and other recommendations aiming at addressing the diversion or illicit use of materials which can be used for IEDs.

5. For the Protocol V Meeting of Experts the ISU coordinated with the President-designate and the five Coordinators on their respective preparations; assisted with the drafting and sending of messages to delegations on behalf of the President-designate, Coordinator on Generic Preventive Measures and Coordinator on National Reporting concerning their objectives for the Meeting of Experts; assisted with the preparation of talking points; coordinated with States, international organisations and non-governmental

organisations on their presentations; organised a small group meeting of key donor States and affected States on cooperation and assistance; organised a focused discussion on addressing the challenges within the area of generic preventive measures; and updated the Protocol V website.

6. Specifically on generic preventive measures (GPMs), the ISU organised and spoke at a side event during the United Nations Mine Action Directors' Meeting on the "Management of munitions sites - work in progress" with the participation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Small Arms Survey and the United Nations Mine Action Service. The ISU produced a list of all those High Contracting Parties which provided information on their implementation of GPMs; wrote to and directly followed up with High Contracting Parties that have not reported on their implementation of GPMs; and is currently following up with organisations in a position to provide assistance in this area.

7. On national reporting, the ISU provided an assessment of the reporting under Article 3; organised two lunchtime meetings during the Meeting of Experts with the Coordinator and new High Contracting Parties and those that have not yet reported on preparing national reports and the assistance that is available; wrote to and directly followed-up with High Contracting Parties that have not yet submitted national reports; and is currently preparing the revision of the Guide on National Reporting.

8. On victim assistance, the ISU is currently assisting with the preparation of an assessment on the progress made in this area; the website section on victim assistance has been updated with new articles and resources; there continues to be coordination with other fora and organisations addressing this issue.

9. An area that requires more attention by the ISU is cooperation and assistance. Currently the ISU is discussing with other United Nations and international organisations the various ways and means by which further support can be provided to achieve the objectives of Amended Protocol II and Protocol V.

C. Support for the Meeting of Experts on lethal autonomous weapons systems

10. In preparation for the Meeting of Experts on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), the ISU assisted the Chair, Ambassador Jean-Hugues Simon-Michel of France, with preparing and sending invitations to the experts and delegations, preparing the programme of work and coordinating the presentations of experts. The ISU assisted the Chair and Friends of the Chair (Brazil, Germany, Mali and Sierra Leone) with their talking points; prepared draft media statements and organised a press conference; organised two briefings on the Meeting of Experts for the African Union and Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN); and coordinated with international organisations, non-governmental organisations and academics on their participation. Ms. Hine-Wai Loose attended the ICRC's Meeting of Experts on LAWS, which took place from 26 to 28 March 2014. During the Meeting of Experts, which took place from 13 to 16 May, the ISU supported the Chair and Friends of the Chair in carrying out their responsibilities, assisted with the preparation of summary reports and finalizing the Chair's report of the meeting; and updating the CCW website.

D. Conferences on the CCW, Amended Protocol II and Protocol V

11. At the time of the submission of the present report, the ISU was in the process of organising this year's annual conferences on the CCW, Amended Protocol II and

Protocol V, including organizing administrative support, an informal preparatory meeting, drafting reports, and preparing briefings for the office holders and coordinators.

E. Promotion and universalization of the Convention and its Protocols

12. The ISU assisted in preparing the messages of the United Nations Secretary-General urging the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of States not yet party to join the CCW. The ISU continued to provide up to date information and advice to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Angela Kane, on her activities promoting the CCW's work. The ISU has provided support to the High Representative in initiating advocacy and outreach activities that would focus on those States that have not yet joined a conventional weapons treaty. The ISU also provided background material and information to the Acting Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Mr. Michael Møller, for his bilateral meetings with States not yet party to the CCW.

13. The ISU supported the efforts of the officeholders to promote universalization. This included drafting and dispatching a joint message from this year's President-designates to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of States not yet party to the CCW; drafting statements, background papers and briefs on joining the CCW; and organising bilateral meetings with States not yet party to the Convention. The ISU is assisting the Presidents-designate with organising a seminar on the CCW's universalization and work, which will take place on 18 September in Geneva.

14. In support of universalization of Amended Protocol II, the ISU facilitated bilateral meetings between the President-designate of the Amended Protocol II Conference and the States not yet party to the Protocol.

15. The ISU followed up with individual States to press them on their progress towards joining the CCW and to respond to questions on the process of acceding to the Convention. The ISU has consulted with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific on ways of promoting the universalization of the Convention in the Asia-Pacific region. It has also worked with CCW High Contracting Parties in this region to determine which States not yet party could be priority targets for universalization.

16. The ISU continued to promote the CCW and disseminate information on its purpose and objectives. For example, the ISU made presentations to numerous groups of students, professionals and diplomats visiting the United Nations. The ISU is in the process of completing the publication of a booklet on the background and how to join the CCW.

F. Sponsorship Programme

17. The ISU assisted in organising the work of the Steering Committee of the Sponsorship Programme, which met twice this year. For the Amended Protocol II and Protocol V meetings of experts, the ISU assisted with the identification and actual sponsorship of candidates. The ISU organised briefings for the sponsored delegates on universalization and implementation during the meetings of experts. Also the ISU assisted individual sponsored delegates at the beginning of the meetings to brief them on the programme of work and when they intend to intervene or make presentations at the sessions. The ISU drafted the report of the Sponsorship Programme, which was then approved by the Steering Committee.

G. Communications amongst the High Contracting Parties

18. The main means of communicating information to the High Contracting Parties, international organisations and non-governmental organisations are through official letters, e-mail messages and the CCW website (www.unog.ch/ccw). The ISU continued to update and improve the CCW website. With the assistance of the interns, the ISU has uploaded numerous statements, summary records and audio files to the website.

H. Support for reporting on CCW Compliance, Amended Protocol II and Protocol V

19. The High Contracting Parties were called on by the Fourth Review Conference to submit national annual compliance reports. For this the ISU organized and dispatched two sets of letters by the Chairperson-designate of the CCW Meeting of the High Contracting Parties addressed to the heads of the Permanent Missions of States that have never submitted annual reports since becoming party to the Convention and those that have not submitted their reports for the current year. The ISU also organized and sent out letters by the Amended Protocol II President-designate reminding the High Contracting Parties that have not submitted national annual reports to do so. The follow-up work on Protocol V national reporting has already been set out in paragraph 7 of this report. A total of 146 CCW compliance, Amended Protocol II and Protocol V annual national reports have been uploaded to the website.

I. Other issues

20. During this year's Amended Protocol II and Protocol V meetings of experts, the ISU organised a seminar titled "CCW – unfinished business". The ISU continues to maintain contact with High Contracting Parties and organisations working on mines other than anti-personnel mines (MOTAPM). Also the ISU continues to update the website section on MOTAPM.

J. Costs estimates and final expenditures of CCW meetings in 2013

21. Last year the High Contracting Parties requested the ISU "to continue to report annually on its activities, including on its estimated costs and actual costs."² The tables containing the breakdown of the estimated costs compared to the final expenditures of all the meetings held last year will be contained in an addendum to this report.

² Final report of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, CCW/MSP/2013/10, paragraph 28.