
First Session
Geneva, 21-24 May 2002

**PROCEDURAL REPORT
OF THE GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS OF THE STATES 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**

1. The Second Review Conference of the States 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 (CCW) held at Geneva on 11-21 December 2001 in its Final Declaration decided to commission follow-up work on decisions arising from the Second Review Conference of the Convention, under the oversight of the Chairman-designate of a meeting of the States Parties to the Convention to be held on 12-13 December 2002 in Geneva, in conjunction with the Fourth Annual Conference of States Parties to Amended Protocol II, which may begin on 11 December 2002. For that purpose the Conference decided to establish an open-ended Group of Governmental Experts with separate Coordinators to:

- (a) discuss ways and means to address the issue of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). In this context the Group shall consider all factors, appropriate measures and proposals, in particular:
 - factors and types of munitions that could cause humanitarian problems after a conflict;
 - technical improvements and other measures for relevant types of munitions, including sub-munitions, which could reduce the risk of such munitions becoming ERW;
 - the adequacy of existing International Humanitarian Law in minimising post-conflict risks of ERW, both to civilians and to the military;
 - warning to the civilian population, in or close to, ERW-affected areas, clearance of ERW, the rapid provision of information to facilitate early and safe clearance of ERW, and associated issues and responsibilities;

- assistance and co-operation.

The Coordinator shall undertake work in an efficient manner so as to submit recommendations, adopted by consensus, at an early date for consideration by the States Parties, including whether to proceed with negotiating a legally-binding instrument or instruments on ERW and/or other approaches.

- (b) further explore the issue of mines other than anti-personnel mines. The Coordinator shall submit a report, adopted by consensus, to the States Parties.

The Second Review Conference agreed that the intersessional work will be undertaken in three sessions during 2002.

At the same Conference the States Parties also agreed that the Chairman-designate shall consult States Parties on financial arrangements and the programme of work and that the intersessional work will be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Second Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention.

2. The First Session of the Group of Governmental Experts was held at Geneva from 21 to 24 May 2002.

3. On 21 May 2002, the Session was opened by the Chairman-designate of the meeting of the States Parties to be held on 12-13 December 2002, Ambassador Rakesh Sood of India. Subsequently, the meetings were conducted by two Coordinators – Ambassador Chris Sanders of the Netherlands on Explosive Remnants of War, and Mr. Peter Kolarov of Bulgaria on Mines Other than Anti-Personnel Mines. Mr. Vladimir Bogomolov, Political Affairs Officer in the Geneva Branch of Department for Disarmament Affairs, served as a Secretary of the Group

4. At its first plenary meeting, on 21 May 2002, the Group adopted its agenda (CCW/GGE/I/1), which reads as follows:

“Opening of the Session by the Chairman-designate of the meeting of the States Parties to the CCW to be held on 12-13 December 2002
Adoption of the Agenda
Confirmation of the Rules of Procedure
Adoption of financial arrangements for the meetings of the Group
Question of participation
Organization of work of the Group of Experts
Future sessions, calendar of meetings and programme of work
Consideration and adoption of procedural report
Background documentation
General exchange of views and consideration of proposals on Explosive Remnants of War and Mines Other than Anti-Personnel Mines
Adoption of procedural report”

5. At the same meeting, the Group confirmed the Rules of Procedure as recommended and used by the Second Review Conference (CCW/CONF.II/PC.1/1 with oral amendments).
6. At the same meeting, in accordance with Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure, the Group adopted the arrangements for meeting the costs of the activities of the Group as recommended by the Second Review Conference (CCW/CONF.II/2).
7. The following 58 States Parties to the Convention participated in the work of the Group: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.
8. The following three Signatory States also participated in the work of the Group: Egypt, Morocco and Turkey.
9. The following seven States not parties to the Convention participated as observers: Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Venezuela.
10. The representatives of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) took part in the work of the Group.
11. The representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), Human Rights Watch, Landmine Action, the Lutheran World Federation and the Quaker U.N. Office also took part in the work of the Group.
12. The Group held two plenary meetings. During the course of the session, the Group of Governmental Experts considered working papers (CCW/GGE/I/WP.1-12) as per list annexed.
13. The Group heard a presentation made by the delegation of Hungary on the unexploded ordnance (UXO) problem in that country, and a presentation by the GICHD and ICRC based on the joint working paper contained in CCW/GGE/I/WP.5. An exposition on Explosive Remnants of War was organized by the delegation of Switzerland on 21 and 22 May 2002. Presentations entitled "Afghanistan Battle Damage Assessment Mission" and "Global Overview of Explosive Submunitions" by Human Rights Watch, and a presentation by Landmine Action on "Explosive Remnants of War" also took place during the course of the session.

14. The Group of Experts also considered the question of participation, including that of the United Nations agencies, specialized and other agencies, non-governmental organizations and competent individuals in the work of the Group and agreed to exercise the utmost degree of transparency in its activities.

15. With regard to the organization of work the Group decided to hold its second session from 15 to 26 July 2002 and the third session from 2 to 10 December 2002. The Group further agreed to have a report prepared at the conclusion of each session, so that decisions or recommendations on organizational matters, as well as recommendations on substantive issues could be properly recorded.

16. The Group agreed to hold two meetings of military experts during its second session in July under the chairmanship of Col. Erwin Dahinden of Switzerland to deal with the issue of Explosive Remnants of War.

17. At the second meeting, on 24 May 2002, the Group of Governmental Experts adopted its procedural report for the first session, as contained in document CCW/GGE/I/CRP.1, as orally amended, which is being issued as document CCW/GGE/I/2.

Annex

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS OF THE GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS
FIRST SESSION 21-24 MAY 2002**

Number	Title	Countries/ Organisations
CCW/GGE/I/1	Draft Provisional Agenda	Secretariat
CCW/GGE/I/WP.1	Draft EU Food-for-Thought Paper on Mines Other Than Antipersonnel Mines	EU
CCW/GGE/I/WP.2	Discussion paper on Clearance of Explosive Remnants of War	ERW Coordinator
CCW/GGE/I/WP.3	Explosive Remnants of War- Assistance and Cooperation	Brazil, Japan and Peru
CCW/GGE/I/WP.4	Technical improvements and other measures for relevant types of munitions, including sub-munitions, which could reduce the risk of such munitions becoming ERW	Switzerland
CCW/GGE/I/WP.5	The types of munitions which become explosive remnants of war	GICHD/ICRC
CCW/GGE/I/WP.6	Discussion paper on "Warning to civilians"	Norway, Landmine Action UK
CCW/GGE/I/WP.7	European Union Position on the Issue of ERW	EU
CCW/GGE/I/WP.8	Information Sharing as a Tool to Protect Civilians from the Effects of UXO/ERW	USA
CCW/GGE/I/WP.9	The adequacy of existing international law in minimizing the post-conflict risks of Explosive Remnants of War	Sweden
CCW/GGE/I/WP.9/Corr.1 English only	The adequacy of existing international law in minimizing the post-conflict risks of Explosive Remnants of War	Sweden
CCW/GGE/I/WP.10	Legal issues regarding explosive remnants of war	United Kingdom
CCW/GGE/I/WP.11	Discussion material on the issue of explosive remnants of war	Russian Federation
CCW/GGE/I/WP.12	Discussion material on the issue of limitation of the use of anti-transport mines	Russian Federation
CCW/GGE/I/INF.2	List of participants	Secretariat