

**Tenth 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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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 generic preventive measures**

**Submitted by the Coordinator on Generic Preventive Measures<sup>1</sup>**

**Introduction**

1. The work on promoting the implementation of Article 9 and part 3 of the Technical Annex, which sets out voluntary generic preventive measures (GPMs) aimed at minimizing the occurrence of explosive remnants of war (ERW), has been a challenging area of Protocol V's work. GPMs are often perceived as being an area of work that is expert and resource intensive. It has also been challenging to raise awareness of this area of Protocol V's work and to ensure it receives both the political and financial support that is needed. However, over the past review cycle there has been increasing evidence of a greater engagement with, and an appreciation of the value of, GPMs. This increasing interest has been supported by other factors, including a greater awareness of the dangers of accidents in storage sites and heightened concern over the diversion of munitions. There has also been increased attention by cooperation and assistance efforts and by the mine action community. Both developed and developing countries have begun sharing experiences on the implementation of key measures for the management of munitions sites, and these discussions have been informed by greater input from experts and organisations with field experience. Increasingly, States recognise that aged and degraded munitions must be destroyed.

2. During the 2016 Meeting of Experts and in accordance with the decisions taken at the Ninth Conference, all High Contracting Parties were encouraged to implement part 3 of the Technical Annex and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines [IATGs] on a voluntary basis.<sup>2</sup> Further, all High Contracting Parties were "urged to implement measures to effectively manage their munitions sites, especially implementing standard operating

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with paragraph 39 of the Final document, CCW/P.V/CONF/2015/11, the President-designate was to be assisted by Colonel Jim Burke of Ireland.

<sup>2</sup> Paragraph 32 of the final document, CCW/P.V/CONF/2015/11.



procedures for the management of munitions sites, maintaining accurate inventories of munitions stored, limiting access to munitions sites, regularly inspecting sites and removing aged and degraded munitions and maintaining the necessary safety distances between munitions sites and urban populations. Selection of such measures should be based on nationally developed risk assessment procedures.”<sup>3</sup> A third aspect of this year’s work was how best to encourage the implementation of GPMs over the next review cycle.<sup>4</sup>

### **Implementation of measures on the management of munitions sites**

3. During the Meeting of Experts, presentations and statements on implementation of measures on the management of munitions sites were made by Iraq, Montenegro, the Philippines, Togo and Zambia. China spoke on its measures concerning civilian explosives. The presentations covered the responsible authority for the munitions sites, standard operating procedures, measures on the maintenance of munitions storage area, controlling access to munitions sites, record keeping of the numbers and types of munitions, the removal of degraded munitions and whether outside assistance had been received. The following key points were drawn from the presentations and statements:

(a) For four of these States responsibility for the munitions lies with the armed forces. Two specifically referred to points of responsibility within the Ministry of Defense and logistics units.

(b) All five States have standard operating procedures for the management of their respective munitions sites. Currently, the Philippines is reviewing its procedures with regard to their compatibility with the IATGs.

(c) Measures undertaken to secure storage facilities include fencing and lighting systems; monitoring by security staff on a daily, monthly and biannual basis; inspections by senior technical officers and personnel independent of the armed forces; and video surveillance. Montenegro spoke of the challenge it faced regarding securing temporary storage sites.

(d) In terms of controlling access to the munitions sites, China has in place a detailed registration process for designated persons allowed to enter such sites. Montenegro has a special order that determines access to storage facilities and only competent personnel with the correct identification documentation are allowed to enter. The Philippines has a ledger that is inspected on a daily basis which records all persons who have entered munitions sites.

(e) Record-keeping on the types and numbers of munitions are the subject of stock record cards, bin cards and bulk record cards. The records of three States feed into central databases. China’s records include the condition of the munitions.

(f) The identification of degraded munitions is largely carried out via regular inspections of the munitions. Two States conducted follow-up on the identification of degraded munitions; one State carried out laboratory testing and another conducted inspections by technical officers.

(g) With the exception of China, the other States have received assistance with the management of their munitions sites, especially in the area of training experts. In addition, Burundi reported that it faces major challenges with the storage and management

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

of munitions and requested international assistance to deal with these matters. This request has been reflected in the report on cooperation and assistance.

### **The way forward on promoting the implementation of generic preventive measures**

4. In the discussions on moving forward on the implementation of GPMs there was little appetite for negotiating additional regulations or guidelines. Instead, there was support for bolstering the implementation of part 3 of Protocol V's Technical Annex and other guidelines, by undertaking practical measures and through continued sharing of national experiences. On this last point, it was noted that more should be done to unpack and understand the gaps concerning the safe and secure management of munitions stockpiles. There was support for strengthening cooperation and assistance in the area of GPMs and for this to be done without undermining national ownership. It was stated that to be effective, work on GPMs should be addressed within a comprehensive strategy, taking into account the whole life cycle of munitions.

5. The United Nations Mine Action Services (UNMAS) and the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) shared their views on how to advance the implementation of GPMs. From UNMAS' experience of working in different countries, the areas of greatest need are: implementation of standards at the national level, identification of national focal points, training and capacity building of personnel, identification of suitable storage in compliance with the IATGs and increased attention to record keeping. MAG emphasised the need for sustainable efforts to build knowledge and establish a range of practices to support GPMs and that for stockpile management to be effective it must be prioritized at the national level through its inclusion in national plans and budgets.

### **Recommendations**

6. Taking into account the work over the past five years on GPMs within the Protocol V framework and in particular the discussions during this year's Meeting of Experts, High Contracting Parties may wish to consider the following recommendations:

(a) All High Contracting Parties and observer States are encouraged to implement Article 9 and part 3 of the Technical Annex to Protocol V and to implement the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines on a voluntary basis.

(b) All High Contracting Parties and observer States will continue to raise awareness of the importance of management of munitions over their whole life cycle and remain informed of the latest research, findings and practices from the field.

(c) All High Contracting Parties and observer States in support of Article 9 and part 3 of the Technical Annex and taking into account the importance of national ownership, will throughout the next review cycle prioritize:

- (i) cooperation and assistance;
- (ii) implementation of national standard operating procedures for the management of munitions;
- (iii) training and capacity building;
- (iv) provision of the essential infrastructure required for storage sites; and
- (v) record keeping on the age, types and numbers of munitions.