
Fifth Session
Geneva, 16-27 June 2003
Item 11 of the agenda

**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 Fifth Session 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 (CCW) was held at Geneva from 16 to 27 June 2003.
2. On 16 June 2003, the Session was opened by the Chairman-designate of the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention to be held on 27-28 November 2003, Ambassador Rakesh Sood of India. Subsequently, the meetings of the Working Groups were chaired by the two Coordinators: Ambassador Chris Sanders of the Netherlands on Explosive Remnants of War, and Minister Counsellor Peter Kolarov of Bulgaria on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines. Mr. Vladimir Bogomolov, Political Affairs Officer, Department for Disarmament Affairs, Geneva Branch, served as Secretary of the Group. He was assisted by Mr. Bantan Nugroho, Political Affairs Officer.
3. At its first plenary meeting, on 16 June 2003, the Group confirmed its agenda (CCW/GGE/IV/1) as adopted at its first plenary meeting of the Fourth Session, on 10 March 2003, and the Rules of Procedure as adopted and used by the Second Review Conference (CCW/CONF.II/PC.1/1 with oral amendments) and adopted its programme of work (CCW/GGE/V/1).
4. The following States Parties to the Convention participated in the work of the Group: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

5. The following Signatory States also participated in the work of the Group: Egypt and Nigeria.

6. The following States not parties to the Convention participated as observers: Burkina Faso, Chile, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Yemen.

7. The representatives of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) took part in the work of the Group.

8. The representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the American Bar Association, the FAFO – Institute for Applied International Studies, the German Initiative to Ban Landmines, Handicap International, Human Rights Watch, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), Landmine Action UK, Mines Action Canada, Pax Christi, and the Swiss Campaign to Ban Landmines also took part in the work of the Group.

9. The Group held two plenary meetings. At its first plenary meeting, the following States participated in the general exchange of views: China, Cuba, Greece (on behalf of the European Union and associated States), Ireland, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland, Venezuela and United States of America, as well as the ICRC and Landmine Action UK. At the second plenary meeting, the following States made concluding remarks: Canada, Greece (on behalf of the European Union and associated States), Latvia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Serbia and Montenegro, and Switzerland, as well as the ICRC, ICBL, Landmine Action UK and Mines Action Canada.

10. In accordance with the programme of work the Working Group on Explosive Remnants of War held 11 meetings and discussed the "Draft Proposal for an Instrument on Explosive Remnants of War" presented by the Coordinator as contained in CCW/GGE/V/WG.1/WP.1/Rev.1.

11. The Working Group on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines held three meetings and discussed "Core questions on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines" presented by the Coordinator as contained in CCW/GGE/V/WG.2/ WP.1.

12. In accordance with the decisions taken at the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention in 2002 (CCW/MSP/2002/2) one meeting was devoted to the consideration of options to promote compliance with the Convention, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Rakesh Sood.

13. During the course of the session, the Group of Governmental Experts considered a document presented by Greece on behalf of the European Union on "Compliance in the CCW context" (CCW/GGE/V/2), the Working Group on Explosive Remnants of War considered working papers (CCW/GGE/V/WG.1/WP.1/Rev.1 to CCW/GGE/V/WG.1/WP.6) and the Working

Group on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines also considered working papers (CCW/GGE/V/WG.2/WP.1 to CCW/GGE/V/WG.2/WP.4), as listed in the Annex. These documents are available in all official languages through the United Nations Official Documents System (<http://www.ods.unog.ch>).

14. The Group held two meetings of military experts during this session under the chairmanship of Col. Erwin Dahinden of Switzerland to deal with the issue of Explosive Remnants of War, and one meeting of military experts to deal with Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines under the chairmanship of Mr. Paul Ellis of the GICHD.

15. The Working Groups heard presentations made by the delegations of China on “Self-destruction and self-deactivation of sub-munitions” and “Sensitive Fuses of Anti-Vehicle Landmines”, Czech Republic on “Pyrotechnic Clearance of the Territory of Former Military Training Area of RALSKO”, Germany on “Sensitive Fuses and Sensors for Anti-Vehicle Mines” and “Landmine, Documentation, Information and Training Centre (DIAZ)”, Russian Federation on “Ensuring Munitions Reliability through Their Proper Handling”, Netherlands on “ERW, A Technical Advisor’s View on Information and Technology”, and United States of America on “ERW in Iraq: An Initial Assessment”. Furthermore, during the course of the session UNMAS, GICHD and the Swiss Army co-organised a demonstration on mine clearance, as well as presentations by GICHD on “Information Requirements for ERW: the Views of the Clearance Community”, and “The Provisions of Warnings and Risk Education for ERW”, and Human Rights Watch on “ERW in Iraq”.

16. As decided by the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention in December 2002, the Group will hold its sixth session from 17 to 24 November 2003 at Geneva.

17. At its final plenary meeting, on 27 June 2003, the Group of Governmental Experts adopted its procedural report, as contained in document CCW/GGE/V/CRP.1, as orally amended, which is being issued as document CCW/GGE/V/3.

Annex

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS OF THE GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS
FIFTH SESSION 16-27 JUNE 2003**

Number	Title	Countries/ Organizations
CCW/GGE/V/1	Provisional Programme of Work	Chairman-designate
CCW/GGE/V/2	Compliance in the CCW Context	Greece on behalf of the European Union
CCW/GGE/V/3	Procedural Report	Secretariat
CCW/GGE/V/WG.1/WP.1/Rev.1	Draft Proposal for an Instrument on Explosive Remnants of War	Coordinator on ERW
CCW/GGE/V/WG.1/WP.2	The United Nations and Explosive Remnants of War	UNMAS
CCW/GGE/V/WG.1/WP.3	The Provision of Warnings and Risk Education for Explosive Remnants of War	GICHD
CCW/GGE/V/WG.1/WP.4	Information Requirements for Explosive Remnants of War	GICHD
CCW/GGE/V/WG.1/WP.5	Ensuring the Reliability of Munitions Through Their Proper Handling	Russian Federation
CCW/GGE/V/WG.1/WP.6	International Humanitarian Law and Explosive Remnants of War	Norway
CCW/GGE/V/WG.2/WP.1	Core questions on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines	Coordinator on MOTAPM
CCW/GGE/V/WG.2/WP.2	Sensitive Fuses for Anti-Vehicle Mines: Overview of Fuses, Sensors and Recommendations for Best Practice (Synopsis)	Germany
CCW/GGE/V/WG.2/WP.3	'Food for Thought' Paper on International Cooperation and Assistance for Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines	Canada
CCW/GGE/V/WG.2/WP.4	Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines: Canadian Overview of Fuses, Sensors and Recommendations for Best Practice	Canada
CCW/GGE/V/MISC.1	Provisional List of Participants	Secretariat
CCW/GGE/V/INF.1	List of Participants	Secretariat
CCW/GGE/V/CRP.1	Draft Procedural Report	Secretariat

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