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Fourth Session  
Geneva, 10-14 March 2003  
Item 11 of the provisional 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 Meeting 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 12 to 13 December 2002 in its Report decided that the Working Group on Explosive Remnants of War would continue its work in the year 2003 with the following mandate:
  - (a) (i) To negotiate an instrument on post-conflict remedial measures of a generic nature which would reduce the risks of ERW. These measures would be based on a broad definition covering most types of explosive munitions, with the exception of mines. Abandoned munitions would have to be included. In these negotiations, questions need to be considered regarding, inter alia, responsibility for clearance, existing ERW, the provision of information to facilitate clearance and risk education, warnings to civilian populations, assistance & co-operation, and a framework for regular consultations of High Contracting Parties. These negotiations would have to establish the scope of this instrument consistent with Article I of the Convention as amended at its Second Review Conference.
  - (a) (ii) To explore and determine whether these negotiations could successfully address preventive generic measures for improving the reliability of munitions that fall within the agreed broad definition, through voluntary best practices concerning the management of manufacturing, quality control, handling and storage of munitions. Exchange of information, assistance and co-operation would be important elements of such best practices.
  - (b) Separate from the negotiations under (a): to continue to consider the implementation of existing principles of International Humanitarian Law and to further study, on an open ended basis, possible preventive measures aimed at improving the design of certain specific types of munitions, including sub-munitions, with a view to minimize the humanitarian risk of these munitions

becoming ERW. Exchange of information, assistance and co-operation would be part of this work.

- (c) In the context of the activities described above, meetings of military experts can be conducted to provide advice in support of these activities.

2. At the same Meeting the States Parties decided that the Working Group on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines would continue its work in the year 2003 with the following mandate:

- (a) To continue to explore the issue of mines other than anti-personnel mines. The group shall consider the most appropriate way to reduce the risks posed by the irresponsible use of mines other than anti-personnel mines, including the possibility to conclude a negotiating mandate for a new instrument and other appropriate measures. The Group of Governmental Experts shall take into account:

- the necessity to strike the right balance between humanitarian concerns and military utility of MOTAPM;
- existing restrictions on such mines in Amended Protocol II to the CCW;
- technical and other measures aimed at minimizing the humanitarian risks posed by such mines as well as the modalities for their effective implementation, such as international cooperation and assistance, transition periods etc.;
- questions involving the use of MOTAPM by non-state actors;
- any question involving other aspects of such mines.

- (b) In the context of the activities described above, meetings of military experts can be conducted to provide advice in support of these activities.

3. At the same Meeting the States Parties decided that the Chairman-designate shall undertake consultations during the intersessional period on possible options to promote compliance with the Convention and its annexed Protocols, taking into account proposals put forward, and shall submit a report, adopted by consensus, to the States Parties.

4. At the same Meeting the States Parties decided to commission follow-up work under the oversight of the Chairman-designate of a Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention to be held on 27-28 November 2003 in Geneva.

5. The Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention in 2002 agreed that the intersessional work of the Group of Governmental Experts will be undertaken in three sessions in Geneva during 2003.

6. The Fourth Session of the Group of Governmental Experts was held at Geneva from 10 to 14 March 2003.

7. On 10 March 2003, the Session was opened by the Chairman-designate of the Meeting of the States Parties 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.

8. At its first plenary meeting, on 10 March 2003, the Group adopted its agenda (CCW/GGE/IV/1), confirmed the Rules of Procedure as recommended and used by the Second Review Conference (CCW/CONF.II/PC.1/1 with oral amendments) and adopted its programme of work (CCW/GGE/IV/1/Add.1)

9. At the same meeting, in accordance with Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure, the Group confirmed the arrangements for meeting the costs of the activities of the Group in 2003 as adopted by the Meeting of the States Parties in 2002 and contained in annexes II and III of the Report (CCW/MSP/2002/2).

10. The Group of Governmental 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. The Group recalled the request of the Second Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention in 2001 to the United Nations Secretary General to make all documents relating to the Convention available on the United Nations website.

11. The following States Parties to the Convention participated in the work of the Group: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 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, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

12. The following Signatory State also participated in the work of the Group: Egypt.

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

14. The representatives of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) took part in the work of the Group.

15. The representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the American Bar Association, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), Human Rights Watch, Landmine Action – UK, and the Swiss Campaign to Ban Landmines also took part in the work of the Group.

16. The Group held two plenary meetings. At its first plenary meeting, the following States participated in the general exchange of views: Argentina, Brazil, China, Cuba, Greece (on behalf of the European Union and associated States), Hungary, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland and United States of America.

17. In accordance with the programme of work the Working Group on Explosive Remnants of War held six meetings and discussed the “Framework Paper on ERW” presented by the Coordinator as contained in CCW/GGE/IV/WG.1/WP.1.

18. The Working Group on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines held two meetings and discussed “Core Questions on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM)” presented by the Coordinator as contained in CCW/GGE/IV/WG.2/WP.1.

19. 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.

20. During the course of the session, the Working Group on Explosive Remnants of War considered working papers (CCW/GGE/IV/WG.1/WP.1 to CCW/GGE/IV/WG.1/WP.6) and the Working Group on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines also considered working papers (CCW/GGE/IV/WG.2/WP.1- to CCW/GGE/IV/WG.2/WP.3), 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>).

21. The Working Group heard presentations made by the delegation of Hungary on “Methods of Clearance of Explosive Remnants of War in Hungary”, and the Russian Federation on “Practical Experience of the Russian Federation in the Detection and Deactivation of Improvised Explosive Devices”. Furthermore, during the course of the session UNMAS presented a field report on the issue of mines other than anti-personnel mines in Afghanistan, the GICHD presented a technical brief on “Scatterable Anti-Vehicle Mines”, and the Geneva Call made a presentation on “How to Engage Non-State Actors in a Landmine Ban and to Adhere to Other Humanitarian Norms”.

22. As decided by the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention in December 2002, the Group will hold its fifth session from 16 to 27 June 2003 and the sixth session from 17 to 24 November 2003. 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.

23. The Group agreed to hold meetings of military experts during its fifth session in June 2003.

24. At the second meeting, on 14 March 2003, the Group of Governmental Experts adopted its procedural report, as contained in document CCW/GGE/IV/CRP.1, as orally amended, which is being issued as document CCW/GGE/IV/2.

Annex

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS OF THE GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS  
FOURTH SESSION 10-14 MARCH 2003**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Countries/ Organizations</b>
CCW/GGE/IV/1	Provisional Agenda	Chairman-designate
CCW/GGE/IV/1/Add.1	Provisional Programme of Work	Chairman-designate
CCW/GGE/IV/2	Procedural Report	Secretariat
CCW/GGE/IV/WG.1/WP.1	ERW Framework Paper: Possible Structure for an ERW Instrument	Coordinator on ERW
CCW/GGE/IV/WG.1/WP.2	Explosive Remnants of War: Victim Assistance	South Africa
CCW/GGE/IV/WG.1/WP.3	Explosive Remnants of War: Assistance and Cooperation	Pakistan
CCW/GGE/IV/WG.1/WP.4	Amendments on the Protection of the Civilian Population from the Effects of ERW (Article 6 of the ERW Framework Paper)	International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
CCW/GGE/IV/WG.1/WP.5	ERW Framework Paper: Article 7	Australia
CCW/GGE/IV/WG.1/WP.6	Definition of Explosive Remnants of War	Russian Federation
CCW/GGE/IV/WG.2/WP.1	Core Questions on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines	Coordinator on MOTAPM
CCW/GGE/IV/WG.2/WP.2	Irresponsible Use of Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines by Non-State Actors	India
CCW/GGE/IV/WG.2/WP.3	Field Report Afghanistan	UNMAS
CCW/GGE/IV/MISC.1	Provisional List of Participants	Secretariat
CCW/GGE/IV/INF.1	List of Participants	Secretariat
CCW/GGE/IV/CRP.1	Draft Procedural Report	Secretariat

For technical questions on how to obtain the above documents, contact the UN ODS via E-mail at <http://www.ods.unog.ch/ods/>. Access to ODS is free for staff members of the United Nations Secretariat, for a limited number of users in specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, and for up to 20 users in Member States of the United Nations. Requests for access can be submitted to the following person:

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