

**Eleventh 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**

26 September 2017

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Geneva, 20 November 2017

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**

**Proposal on the provision of expert assistance for national
reporting under Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War
(ERW)**

Introduction

1. National reporting is important:
 - for understanding the progress made and the challenges faced by High Contracting Parties in implementing Protocol V;
 - as a confidence building measures;
 - as evidence of High Contracting Parties' commitment to Protocol V and international humanitarian law in general; and
 - assisting in identifying those High Contracting Parties that require assistance and is, therefore, an additional mechanism for facilitating international cooperation and assistance.

By undertaking the process of national reporting regularly, the administration of a High Contracting Party is required to consider how it is implementing the provisions of Protocol V and the progress it is making. Such a process will raise awareness of and prioritise a country's obligations under the Protocol and further strengthen the process of implementation.

2. As of 11 August 2017, eighteen High Contracting Parties have never submitted national reports, which includes countries that are seriously affected by explosive remnants of war (ERW).

3. In 2016 it was proposed by the President of the Tenth Conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V to establish a roster of experts to provide advice to countries on national reporting. The proposal set out below utilizes the existing mechanism of the CCW Implementation Support Unit and makes provision for expert advice.

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Proposals to improve the rate and quality of reporting

4. In accordance with its mandate to “strengthen the implementation of the Convention and its annexed Protocols”,¹ the Steering Committee of the CCW Sponsorship Programme could consider how to follow-up on reporting through the selection and engagement of some of the countries to be sponsored.

5. It is also proposed to task the CCW Implementation Support Unit to explore all avenues for providing assistance to countries and where necessary, to provide expert assistance. This proposal is in accordance with the Implementation Support Unit’s mandate to “Support the High Contracting Parties, on request, in the implementation of the CCW and its Protocols...”² Support would only be provided with the consent of the country requesting assistance on national reporting.

6. The assistance provided by the Implementation Support Unit could take the form of:

- A one-on-one briefing in Geneva on the requirements of national reporting under Protocol V and the provision of detailed written information. (The Implementation Support Unit currently provides briefings to High Contracting Parties that have not yet submitted a national report.)
- Facilitating contact between the country requiring assistance and experts from other High Contracting Parties or relevant organisations. The Implementation Support Unit could invite experts from the following groups to provide advice on national reporting: the roster of experts for the CCW Compliance Mechanism; High Contracting Parties that have submitted comprehensive national reports; and relevant expert organizations. Assistance could be provided via email, video conference or bilateral exchanges.
- Conduct in-country visits and, if appropriate, with expert support as outlined above.

7. It should be underlined again that assistance and any expert support would only be provided with the consent of the country requesting assistance.

8. If financing is required this will be provided via voluntary contributions. Therefore, the costs of activities to support national reporting will not be included in the CCW estimated costs or the budget of the Implementation Support Unit. The voluntary contributions in support of this work would be deposited in UNODA’s Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament in New York and then transferred to Geneva. The Implementation Support Unit’s work on providing advice on national reporting and the use of any voluntary funding will be carried out in consultation with the officeholders and be reported on in the Unit’s annual report.

9. The support provided for Protocol V national reporting would be reviewed in 2021 to coincide with the Sixth CCW Review Conference.

¹ Paragraphs 3(i), Decision of the establishment of a sponsorship programme within the framework of the [CCW].

² *Final Report*, paragraph 36(d), CCW/MSP/2009/5, 20 November 2009, 2009 CCW Meeting of High Contracting Parties.