1. During the opening of the Meeting of Experts, the President-designate will outline the Programme of Work. There will be no general exchange of views, but States that wish to provide updates on their efforts towards implementing or joining Protocol V will be given the opportunity to speak during the opening session.

2. The mandate of the Meeting of Experts is set out in the decisions taken at last year's Eleventh Conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V.¹

National Reporting²

3. The Geneva Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) will provide an update on national annual reporting by High Contracting Parties.

Clearance of explosive remnants of war³

4. In accordance with the decisions taken at the 2017 Eleventh Conference and the 2016 Tenth Conference to further focus on the clearance of explosive remnants of war, a panel discussion, chaired by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will initiate the discussion. The panel will consist of representatives from Iraq, the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the Norwegian People's Aid and the Mines Advisory Group (MAG). After the panel discussions, affected High Contracting Parties and High Contracting Parties, in a position to do so, are encouraged to respond to the following set of questions during their interventions:

   (i) Who is the national focal point in your country on the clearance and destruction of ERW?

   (ii) What steps have been taken to survey and assess the threat posed by ERW?

   (iii) How are areas requiring clearance prioritized?

¹ CCW/P.V/CONF/2017/5, paragraph 31
³ CCW/P.V/CONF/2016/8, paragraph 26; CCW/P.V/CONF/2017/5, paragraph 31
(iv) What steps have been taken to assess and prioritize the needs and practicability of marking, clearance and removal or destruction of ERW?

(v) What steps have been taken to mark and clear the contaminated areas and destroy ERW?

(vi) What are the challenges to completing the clearance of ERW?

(vii) What steps have been taken to mobilize resources to carry out these activities?

High Contracting Parties are encouraged to report on a voluntary basis on their readiness to contribute to facilitating the marking and clearance, removal or destruction of ERW. Such States may also wish to speak on how they determine the priority areas to be cleared and the challenges they have encountered in providing assistance with clearance operations.

*Wednesday 13 June 2018, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Room XVIII)*

The discussion on clearance of explosive remnants of war will continue with focused exchanges on the following questions:

(i) How are States prioritizing areas for clearance? What improvements could be made?

(ii) What measures can be taken to ensure the efficiency of surveillance and clearance operations?

(iii) What are the key challenges being experienced in clearance operations? For example, how is the clearance of urban areas being conducted?

(iv) What new technologies are available to assist with the clearance of ERW?

**Victim Assistance**

5. The morning session will continue with a panel chaired by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). The panel will initiate the discussion on victim assistance with representatives from ERW-affected states (Afghanistan, Iraq, Lao PDR) and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL). After the panel there will be an opportunity for affected States to speak on their efforts to implement Article 8(2) and the Protocol V Plan of Action on Victim Assistance. Also, affected States are encouraged to report on these actions in Form E(a) of the national reporting form.

6. In accordance with the decision taken at the Ninth Conference, High Contracting Parties agreed to “continue to review the implementation of the commitments on victim assistance under Protocol V and in particular to focus on the provision of cooperation and assistance and best practices in this area”. Donor States and organizations and affected States are encouraged to share their experiences of what has worked well and what has not worked when providing cooperation and assistance for victim assistance.
Workshop on Article 4 “Recording, retaining and transmission of information”

The workshop will be organized in cooperation with the delegation of Ireland. The aim of the workshop is to encourage High Contracting Parties to focus on the development and implementation of Article 4 procedures at the national level.

Closure of the Meeting of Experts

The President-designate will provide some concluding remarks on the work of the Meeting of Experts and subsequently close the meeting.
Annex I

Recommendations agreed at the Eleventh Conference on National Reporting

In accordance with paragraphs 32(b) and (d) of the Tenth Conference’s Final Document (CCW/P.5/CONF/2016/8) and the President’s proposal in document CCW/P.V/CONF/2017/2, the Conference decided:

(a) 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…”, support is to be provided to High Contracting Parties on national reporting. Such support may take the form of one-on-one briefings in Geneva on the requirements of national reporting under Protocol V and the provision of detailed written information.

(b) The Implementation Support Unit is to facilitate contact between High Contracting Parties requiring assistance and experts from other High Contracting Parties or relevant organisations. The Unit is to 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 expert organizations including the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). Assistance could be provided via email, video conferences or bilateral exchanges.

(c) The Implementation Support Unit may conduct in-country visits and where necessary with expert support as outlined above.

(d) It is underlined that any support provided could only be done so with the consent of the country requesting assistance.

(e) If financing is required this will be provided via voluntary contributions. The Implementation Support Unit’s work on providing advice on national reporting and the management of any funding will be carried out in consultation with the officeholders and be reported on in the Unit’s annual report.

(f) The Conference further decided that support provided for Protocol V national reporting would be reviewed in 2021 to coincide with the Sixth CCW Review Conference.

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Annex II

Recommendations agreed at the Tenth Conference on the clearance of ERW and Article 4

The Conference decided:

(a) In accordance with the Protocol V Guide on National Reporting, affected High Contracting Parties are encouraged to report on the following issues:

(i) Who is the national focal point in your country on the clearance and destruction of ERW?

(ii) What steps have been taken to survey and assess the threat posed by ERW?

(iii) What steps have been taken to assess and prioritize the needs and practicability of marking, clearance and removal or destruction of ERW?

(iv) What steps have been taken to mark and clear the contaminated areas and destroy ERW?

(v) What steps have been taken to mobilize resources to carry out these activities?

(b) High Contracting Parties are encouraged to exchange experiences on challenges in completing clearance programmes.

(c) High Contracting Parties are encouraged to report on a voluntary basis on their readiness to contribute to facilitating the marking and clearance, removal or destruction of ERW.

(d) During the next review cycle the work on clearance should consider, inter alia, how States are prioritizing areas for clearance, measures to ensure the efficiency of surveillance and clearance operations, exchange of experiences on clearance challenges such as the clearance of urban areas, and new technologies to assist clearance operations, where appropriate.

(e) All High Contracting Parties are called on to implement Article 4 procedures, provide appropriate training to their armed forces and ensure such procedures are reflected in their standard operating procedures, as adaptable to national circumstances.

(f) The 2017 Meeting of Experts will include a workshop on Article 4, based on the provisional programme set out in the Annex I.

5 Final document of the Tenth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War CCW/P.V/CONF/2016/8, paragraph 26