

ПОСТОЯННОЕ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВО  
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ  
ПРИ КОНФЕРЕНЦИИ ПО РАЗОРУЖЕНИЮ  
В ЖЕНЕВЕ



15, avenue de la Paix,  
1211 GENÈVE 20

10-11-08 AM  
MISSION PERMANENTE  
DE LA FEDERATION DE RUSSIE AUPRES  
DE LA CONFERENCE DU DESARMEMENT  
A GENEVE

Téléphone: (4122) 733 10 15  
Téléfax: (4122) 733 10 31

Unofficial translation  
Check against delivery

## STATEMENT

by H.E. Ambassador A.I.ANTONOV,

Head of the Russian Delegation  
at the Second Conference of  
Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War  
to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)

Geneva, 10 November 2008

Mr. Chairman,

This is our Second annual Conference to review Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) that has entered into force.

We highly appreciate the significance of this Protocol. It is called upon to make a specific contribution to the solution of tasks facing the CCW, notably to facilitate more effective resolution of problems arising from munitions turning into ERWs.

Protocol V has been facilitating in a practical manner the strengthening of the Convention and its credibility. The adoption and entry into force of the Protocol shows that the framework Convention and its Protocols retain a capability to respond adequately to the emergence of new humanitarian risks and threats.

It is difficult to overestimate the significance of Protocol V on ERW and its entry into force. It has clearly demonstrated the need for collective steps aimed at ensuring security and predictability in international relations.

The Protocol on ERW is the product of a very complex compromise. Its elaboration amid intensive and constructive discussions merits every praise.

This international document has been fully "working" for the implementation of the fundamental principles of the Convention. Notably, it ensures a balance of humanitarian, military and economic interests. It is practically implementable and capable of facilitating in a feasible manner the solution of real humanitarian problems.

We are sure that the implementation of the Protocol in good faith can create practical conditions for removal of a considerable number of humanitarian concerns including those resulting from the use of cluster munitions.

Mr. Chairman,

In July of this year President of Russia Dmitry A. Medvedev signed a decree on our country's accession to Protocol V. Russia has thus acceded to all five effective Protocols to the Convention.

---

Our country has been fully implementing the Protocol V provisions.

I would like to stress that tens of thousands of various ERWs are removed each year in Russia. The population has been regularly informed of potential dangers from ERW. The relevant legislative base has been improving. Russia's armed forces have been regularly carrying out a whole range of arrangements aimed to ensure the implementation of Protocol V provisions.

We stand ready to render assistance within the framework of international operations on humanitarian clearance and disposal of ERWs, including by tapping the capacities of the Ministry for emergency situations of Russia, as well as train specialists in this field.

Up till now, vast areas of the Russian Federation, which survived hostilities of the Second World War, remain contaminated with explosive remnants that pose a real danger to the population. Their complete clearance requires considerable financial and human resources. In this context we are interested in establishing relevant international cooperation, in the first place with bordering states.

Mr. Chairman,

We positively assess the preparatory process for our Conference. We support the idea advanced last year by the first Conference of establishing a permanent database on national implementation of Protocol V. We wish to note that information about the implementation of the Protocol by Russia has been incorporated in our replies to questions about the implementation of the Convention in general. Starting from next year – and by that time Protocol V would have entered in force for us – we will regularly release information according to the adopted form on national implementation of the Protocol.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to reiterate the important role which Protocol V has been already playing. We are sure that in future, against the backdrop of numerous regional conflicts, the role of this document will only increase. That is why we have been supporting its further strengthening and universalization.

Thank you for your attention.