

DISCUSSION PAPER 4

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of the Protocol

GENERIC PREVENTIVE MEASURES

A – General observations

- A general exchange of views on the implementation of the provisions of Article 9 took place during the first meeting of Experts on Generic Preventive measures (Geneva, 2 to 5 July 2008). The discussion highlighted the fact that a lot of detailed documents of a theoretical nature are already available.
- A number of States have provided information, in their first national reports, on their own national rules and regulations, and more generally on the way in which they implement the provisions of article 9.
- The next meeting of Experts in 2009 should build on the work done last year and turn to more specific objectives. These could be to reach a better understanding of how to proceed with the implementation of Article 9 and the Part 3 of the Technical Annex, and to address some specific issues, from a strictly technical perspective.
- While doing so, it would be advisable to create an atmosphere conducive to a free-flowing exchange of views between experts. This would help finding solutions that would concretely facilitate the implementation of the Protocol V in general, at a national level.

B – Possible approaches for future work during the next experts meeting in April

Our next meeting could address three main topics:

- the generic questionnaire contained in the document “Generic Preventive Measures” referred to in our mandate;
- an exchange of views on national approaches to implement the Article 9 and the Part 3 of the Technical Annex;
- the specific issue of ammunition storage.

1. Generic questionnaire:

- The second Meeting of States Parties to the Protocol V has requested the Meeting of Experts to focus more particularly on the proposal/concept contained in the document CCW/P.V/CONF/2008/7. This document presents a pragmatic approach to developing and implementing generic preventive measures throughout the life-cycle of ammunitions.
- This approach is twofold: firstly, it consists of a methodology reflecting a common understanding of the way in which it is advisable to implement generic preventive measures; secondly, it consists of a check-list, or questionnaire, which serves as a guideline to concretely implement the methodology and describes the measures, which could be applied at every stage of the life cycle of ammunitions.
- This proposal, which has been worked out within the framework of the previous group of Experts on Explosive Remnants of War and presented by the French delegation before this group of Experts in 2008, is intended to offer a practical and optimal solution to ensure an effective implementation of article 9.

- The second Meeting of States parties specifically tasked the Meeting of Experts with reflecting further on this proposal/concept. An in-depth discussion of the document would be helpful; it could foster new ideas and proposals and eventually make it possible to improve it. Thus, it will be highly appreciated if experts could engage in such discussion during our next session.
- The best approach could be to go through all the chapters/items of the check-list, each of which relates to a particular phase of the life cycle of ammunitions.
- An agreement on a refined version of the check-list would be a major outcome of the meeting of Experts. This revised check-list could be recommended for adoption by the next Meeting of States parties, in November, as a “best practice” for the implementation of article 9.
- It will be highly appreciated if the High Contracting Party’s experts, in position to do so, could provide me before our April meeting with their comments and suggestions on the current version of the questionnaire in order to allow the Meeting to start its work on an updated basis.

2. National approaches

- The National Report Form G provides High Contracting Parties with a good opportunity to spell out how they consider the implementation of the Art. 9 and the relevant part of the Technical Annex.
- The reading of those reports posted on the P5 database in 2008, shows that different paths have been followed by States when providing informations under National reporting obligations: some States have chosen to describe their domestic organization whereas others have preferred to fill in the form in more general terms.
- The expert meeting could greatly benefit from presentations by HCP's experts about the technical ways followed by their respective countries to implement the Art.9 and the Part 3 of the Technical Annex. Such presentations could be conducive to an informal discussion on some practical aspects related to such implementation that could help to develop a mutual understanding.
- It will be highly appreciated if some Countries could volunteer to deliver such presentations.

3. Dealing with one particular topic: ammunition storage.

- During the upcoming meeting, we could pick up one specific topic, under the overarching issue of “Generic Preventive Measures”, for a more detailed discussion. The issue of ammunition storage would lend itself to such a technical discussion.
- The GICHD has recently issued a “Guide to Ammunition Storage”. This handbook/manual has been introduced during the Meeting of States Parties last November. It provides a good and comprehensive insight of the most important aspects related to the overall management of ammunitions.
- Some High Contracting Parties, building on their own operational experience, have also defined specific approaches to adress the challenges related to ammunition stockpiles management.
- The meeting of Experts could benefit from detailed presentations on this issue. The GICHD has already expressed its availability to further introduce the above mentioned manual. I invite also High Contracting Parties ready to do so, to present their respective views in a detailed manner.

C- Organisation of work

- We can assume that the time allocated to the group of experts on article 9 will be the same as during the last informal meeting of experts in July 2008. On this basis, half of the time could be devoted to the discussion of the first item (the generic questionnaire). The rest of the time could be shared between the other two items.
- Some time would also be spared for a general introductory discussion and some concluding remarks.