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## Statement

**Ambassador Stephan NELLEN  
Director GICHD**

### **First Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to CCW Protocol V on ERW**

**Geneva, 5 November 2007**

Dear President,  
Dear Colleagues and Friends of Protocol V,

The First Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War allows me to remind you that the mission of GICHD includes both working for the elimination of anti-personnel mines, as well as the reduction of the humanitarian impact of other landmines and explosive remnants of war.

The Centre has, for many years, concentrated on all types of explosive remnants of war (ERW), including all forms of mines, booby traps, cluster munitions, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and abandoned ordnance (AXO), and their human, social and developmental consequences.

In the past, the Centre has provided, and will continue to provide, independent technical input and direct support for international efforts to minimise human suffering caused by weapons and/or explosive remnants of war, which is covered by the on-going work of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). We will assist you in making Protocol V a strong instrument, in order to achieve results which benefit the civilian populations in post-conflict areas.

The GICHD supported the Dutch Coordinator in achieving agreement on Protocol V in November 2003 with specific studies. These covered ERW-related issues, such as threat analysis, information requirements and warnings and risk education.

Now that Protocol V has entered into force, and the High Contracting Parties will start to examine how to best implement it, the GICHD puts its instruments and experience at the disposal of the States.



In the field of information management, our software IMSMA already covers ERW-related data, and our experience with the International Mine Action Standards, have already been extended to ERW-related activities. When discussing possible implementation mechanisms for Protocol V, our experience in this field could be useful.

Finally, in light of our past and future support to the High Contracting Parties, the GICHD is pleased to make available a draft of a new study entitled *Mine Action and the Implementation of CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War*. The study provides practical information to those engaged in landmines and ERW activities which aim to reduce the social, economic and environmental impact of these weapons. It was distributed today to all delegations and further copies are available.

The publication is intended particularly for States and their armed forces, but also for international and non-governmental organizations involved in explosive ordnance disposal, risk education or assistance to the victims. It reflects the legal obligations laid down by Protocol V on ERW and the non-legally-binding Technical Annex.

The study is intended to give guidance in a complex area of endeavour based on best practice and lessons from the last 15 years of Mine Action. We hope that it will prove a useful resource to everyone concerned with the consequences of explosive remnants of war.

This draft first edition remains a work in progress. The GICHD wanted to make this draft available to States Parties and other States and organisations today. Taking into account the results of this meeting, as well as comments and remarks to be sent to the GICHD, we will finalise it early next year and make it available before the middle of 2008.

This booklet was financed by The Netherlands, whom we thank you through you, Mister President.

Dear President,  
Dear Colleagues and Friends of Protocol V,

The GICHD remains committed to continuing to assist the CCW High Contracting Parties in any way they require. It is important that Protocol V implementation be addressed in a substantive manner in order to bring to the civilian populations the financial and technical assistance they need in order to reduce their human suffering caused by explosive remnants of war.