Tuesday 7 April 2015, 10:00am: Opening of the Protocol V Meeting of Experts

1. During the opening of the Meeting of Experts, the President-designate will outline the Programme of Work and the Coordinators will introduce their respective areas of work. While there will not be a general exchange of views, States that wish to provide updates on their efforts towards joining Protocol V will be given the opportunity to speak during the opening session.

2. The mandate for the Meeting of Experts is set out in the recommendations agreed to at the 2014 Eighth Conference. The recommendations are attached.

Tuesday 7 April 2015, 10:45am: National reporting

3. The session on national reporting will be led by Major Aviateur Lode Dewaegheneire of Belgium. The session will commence with a presentation by the Coordinator on the rate of reporting and a presentation of the reporting under Form C on Article 5 – other precautions for the protection of the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian objects from the risks and effects of ERW. The main tasks for Meeting of Experts are:

   a) To ensure that the Guide to National Reporting reflects the recent changes made to the National Reporting Form. In 2012 High Contracting Parties decided to include a new form on victim assistance and in 2014 the decision was taken to merge Forms E and F on cooperation and assistance. Attached is the draft proposal on guidance for reporting on victim assistance. It would be appreciated if delegations provided feedback on this proposals during the Meeting of Experts.

   b) Small group meeting on national reporting, 1:00pm (approximately) in Conference Room XXIII: The purpose of this meeting is for the Coordinator to explain what information is required in the Protocol V national reporting form, what guidance is available to assist with this task and useful tips for reporting. The meeting is for those High Contracting Parties that have not yet submitted a report, new High Contracting Parties and States that are considering joining Protocol V.

Tuesday 7 April 2015, 3:00pm: Victim assistance

4. The session on victim assistance will be led by the Coordinator, Mr. Julio Mercado of Argentina and, Friend of the Coordinator, Mr. Fernando Guzman of Chile. This year victim assistance will focus on implementation of the key elements of the Protocol V Plan of Action on Victim Assistance and Article 8(2).

   a) Are there victims of explosive remnants of war under your country’s jurisdiction or control? Does your country have any data on victims or persons with disabilities?

   b) What medical care, rehabilitation, psychological support services are available for treating injuries such as those caused by ERW?

   c) What measures are in place to support the social and economic inclusion of victims, especially their employment
d) Is there a comprehensive law to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities? If not, what laws exist that address the rights of persons with disabilities?

e) Is there a focal point within your Government on victim assistance?

f) Is there a national plan on persons with disabilities? If so, how is the work on victim assistance incorporated into your Government’s national plan on persons with disabilities and overall development framework?

5. The Eighth Conference agreed to invite High Contracting Parties at the 2015 CCW Meeting to share on a voluntary basis their views on victim assistance based on the experiences of Protocol V. The Meeting of Experts is an opportunity to prepare for the CCW Meeting, exchange ideas on how to prepare for the discussion on victim assistance and what can be achieved.

Tuesday 7 April 2015, 4:30pm (approximately): International cooperation and assistance

6. Cooperation and assistance is essential to operationalizing and realising the objectives of Protocol V. For the Meeting of Experts:

   a) Donor States and organisations are encouraged to provide updates on their efforts to support Protocol V.
   b) Affected States are encouraged to detail the resources and expertise that they require for dealing with ERW.
   c) The first step set out in operation to clear and destroy ERW is to “survey and assess the threat posed by explosive remnants of war” (Article 3, paragraph 3(a)). A number of States have indicated that they need assistance with the surveillance of ERW. A second area where States have indicated they require assistance is in the area of managing munitions sites. Donor States and organisations are encouraged to set out the assistance they are able to provide in both of these areas.

Wednesday 8 April 2015, 10:00am: Generic preventive measures

7. The session on generic preventive measures will be led by Colonel Jim Burke of Ireland. This session will begin with an update on progress made on implementing generic preventive measures and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines.

8. The work on generic preventive measures will continue to focus on the management of munitions sites. Well managed munitions sites are essential for maintaining munitions that will function as expected during a conflict, fulfilling the obligations of Protocol V and preventing accidents and the diversion of munitions. States are encouraged to share their experiences and lessons learnt on the management of munitions sites, including responding to the following questions:

   a) Who in your country’s armed forces is responsible for the management of munitions sites?
   b) What measures are taken to maintain munitions storage areas? Are the munitions sites regularly checked? And if so, how often are the sites checked?
   c) What records are kept of those who enter such sites?
   d) What records are maintained on the numbers and types of munitions stored?
   e) How often are the munitions inspected? What procedures are in place to identify and remove degraded munitions?
f) Has your country received outside expert assistance or advice on munitions safety in storage and transportation?

9. Following on from the session on cooperation and assistance, the Coordinator will provide an update on States and organizations that are able to provide assistance with the management of munitions sites.

Wednesday 8 April, 3:00pm: Article 3 on the surveillance, clearance and destruction of ERW and Article 4

10. The session on the surveillance, clearance and destruction of ERW and Article 4 will be led by the Coordinator, Ms. Diana Kazina of Latvia. During the session on surveillance, clearance and destruction of ERW, affected States are strongly encouraged to report on their implementation of Article 3, including the following questions:

a) Who in the national authority responsible for ERW in your country?

b) What progress has been made on surveying and assessing the threat posed by ERW?

c) What progress has been made on the clearance and destruction of ERW?

d) What efforts have been undertaken to build capacity at the community and national levels in the surveillance, clearance and destruction of ERW?

11. The Eighth Conference agreed to “continue the exchange of information on the most difficult explosive ordnance disposal clearance operations, such as clearance in sand desert areas and the areas where intensive battles took place”. For both affected States and States that have participated in clearance operations:

a) What have been the particular challenges in clearing sand desert areas and areas where intensive battles took place; and

b) What were the lessons learnt from such clearance operations?

Article 4 on recording, retaining and transferring information on the use and abandonment of explosive ordnance

12. Article 4 obligates armed forces to record and retain information on the use and abandonment of explosive ordnance and then once active hostilities have ended to share this information with the party in control of the affected territory or clearance organisations. By way of background, at the First Conference of Protocol V, High Contracting Parties agreed to the following paragraphs on Article 4:

30. The Conference urged the users (or abandoners) of explosive ordnance to record and retain, if possible, all the information outlined in Part 1 of the Technical Annex of Protocol V.

31. The Conference urged the users (or abandoners) of explosive ordnance to transmit to the relevant recipient all the information that would be required to protect civilians and humanitarian workers from the risks posed by ERW, as set out in Articles 4 and 6 of the Protocol.

32. The Conference decided to recommend that, in a case where another State has not been chosen, the United Nations would be the “mutually agreed third party” referred to in Article 4 (2) of Protocol V. (Final Document, CCW/P.V/COF/2007/1)
13. Delegations are encouraged to provide updates on their implementation of Article 4 and respond to the following questions:

a) All High Contracting Parties are encouraged to share information on their efforts to develop Article 4 procedures and to include these in the training of their armed forces.

b) Concerns have been raised about the quality of information that is transferred to clearance organisations and affected States. For example, information on the strikes on all targets has not always been complete. High Contracting Parties with Article 4 procedures are encouraged to share their experiences and efforts to improve the quality of information that is recorded and transferred under Article 4.

c) Following a conflict, there has been confusion amongst parties as to whether information under Article 4 has been transferred, which organisation has received such information and these factors have contributed to delays in undertaking surveillance and clearance operations and ultimately providing protection to civilians. Delegations are invited to express their views on the following matters:

   i. What can be done to improve the transfer of information under Article 4?
   ii. Would it be useful to identify one focal point within the United Nations or another organisation as the focal point for receiving Article 4 information?
   iii. Alternatively, would it be possible to identify one focal within the United Nations or another organisation as the focal point for receiving information on how Article 4 information has been transferred. Clearly the identified focal point would be obligated to respect the confidentiality requirements of the transferring party.

14. If any further information is required please check the CCW website (www.unog.ch/ccw), Coordinators or the CCW Implementation Support Unit.