

Twenty-fifth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

15 November 2023

English only

Geneva, 14 November 2023

Agenda item 8

General exchange of views

Ukraine's implementation of Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices to the CCW in the situation of Russia's armed aggression

Submitted by Ukraine

1. Ukraine emphasizes the important contribution of Protocol II into the improvement of the global situation in tackling the mine threat problem.
2. Ukraine fully complies with its obligations under the Protocol II, the main purpose of which is to protect the civilian population from the the indiscriminate damage caused by landmines and to minimize the effects from using of explosive devises.
3. In the relentless grip of an unceasing war of aggression unleashed by Russia in 2014, followed by the full-scale invasion in 2022, the resilient population of Ukraine continues to endure profound suffering. In its war against Ukraine, Russia uses all types of weapons, including prohibited anti-personnel mines of remote mining, improvised explosive devices (IED) and targets peaceful cities of Ukraine, critical infrastructure facilities, agricultural areas, farming lands and territorial waters of Ukraine. A number of Ukrainian villages, forests, roads are contaminated with mines that have been installed on tripwires.
4. Ukraine has to deal with dangerous mines, booby-traps and other explosive devices massively used by the russian army, often without clear military reason, even on private housing, cars, toys and human corpses, including civilians and children, to inflict casualties, terrorize the population and restrict free movement of people.
5. Unfortunately, there is no complete official statistics on improvised explosive devices` deaths since the invasion, but every week the Ukrainian authorities have been reporting numbers of cases of civilians casualties. Often, blast victims are children, women, critical infrastructure workers, farmers and other rural workers who had little choice but to use mined roads and plow mined fields.
6. The army of the Russian Federation widely uses an arsenal of conventional land mines, which are limited in use by the Protocol II to the CCW.
7. Due to Russia's military actions, the territory of Ukraine has been contaminated with anti-personnel mines PMN-4 (modern russian mine), PMN-2, PMN-3, MON and OZM with trip wire.
8. Furthermore, huge areas have been mined by anti-tank mines TM-62, converted by russians into a trap mines, which make demining work even more difficult and leads to numerous casualties among the population.
9. On the territories liberated from the occupation of the Russian Federation we witness numerous violations of the provisions of Protocol II by the russian forces. The application of



remotely placed mines is carried out in complete disregard of the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Protocol and paragraphs 1, 2, 3 of the Technical Annex to the Protocol.

10. From the first days of the full-scale aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine pyrotechnic units of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, Ministry of Defence of Ukraine have been taking measures to ensure the safety of civilian population of Ukraine from explosive devices, including improvised explosive devices. The work of pyrotechnicians is complicated by the fact that the Russian invaders left a lot of mine-explosive barriers with booby-traps and false targets.

11. Demining continues not only on land, but also in water with the use of underwater drones. Such mines like POM-2, the latest POM-3, the so-called «Medallion», PTM-3, as well as PFM-1S are detected and cleared by the Ukrainian deminers.

12. In newly liberated territories the security and defense units of Ukraine have been marking the areas contaminated with explosive ordnance in full compliance with the requirements of the Article 5 of Amended Protocol II and in line with the national standards of mine action.

13. Due to the high density of contaminated territories liberated from the aggressor, special importance in Ukraine is attached to the Mine risk Education, which has been incorporated in school and university education programs in Ukraine.

14. Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion pyrotechnics units of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine identified and deactivated 453 000 explosive devices and cleared more than 108 000 hectares of the territory of Ukraine, including 367 hectares - with the help of mechanized demining machines.

15. Ukraine is making every effort to clear its territory from explosive ordnance and mines in accordance with article 11.3 of AP II and expresses its sincere gratitude to all countries and organizations for their support and help at such a difficult time.

16. Despite significant challenges, Ukraine remains committed to the provisions of Protocol II of the Convention, the implementation of which is an integral part of Ukraine's corresponding national program.

17. In view of a broad variety of tasks confronting us today in implementing the Amended Protocol II in the situation of Russia's armed aggression, the Ukrainian Side would appreciate further technical and financial assistance in addressing them as well as looking forward to intensifying our cooperation with our partners.
