Final document

I. Introduction

1. Article 13 of the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices, as amended on 3 May 1996 (Amended Protocol II), annexed 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 (CCW), provides for a conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Protocol to be held annually for the purpose of consultations and cooperation on all issues related to the operation of the Protocol.

2. The Twenty-fourth Annual Conference, held on 15 November 2022, decided to recommend to the Twenty-fifth Annual Conference a provisional agenda, as contained in its final document (CCW/AP.II/CONF.24/5, annex II). It also adopted the estimated costs of the Twenty-fifth Annual Conference (CCW/AP.II/CONF.24/4).

3. The Twenty-fourth Annual Conference recommended in paragraph 29 of its final document (CCW/AP.II/CONF.24/5), that the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President-designate of the Twenty-fifth Annual Conference, on behalf of the High Contracting Parties, exercise their authority to achieve the goal of universality of Amended Protocol II.

4. The Twenty-fourth Annual Conference, in paragraph 32 (c) of its final document (CCW/AP.II/CONF.24/5), decided to continue focused exchanges on selected article(s) as decided by the Twentieth Annual Conference in paragraph 31 of its final document (CCW/AP.II/CONF.20/5).

5. The Twenty-fourth Annual Conference also decided, in paragraph 35 of its final document (CCW/AP.II/CONF.24/5), that the Group of Experts will review the operation and status of the Protocol, including matters arising from reports by High Contracting Parties according to Article 13 (4) of Amended Protocol II, under the overall responsibility of the President-designate; and the issue of improvised explosive devices (IED), under the overall responsibility of the IED Coordinators. The Conference also decided that the work of the Group of Experts will be considered by the Twenty-fifth Annual Conference.

6. The Twenty-fourth Annual Conference decided to nominate a representative of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) as President-designate of the Twenty-fifth Annual Conference. The Group of the NAM subsequently decided to renounce this right.

7. The High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II endorsed, through a written silence procedure, Ambassador Erik Brøgger Rasmussen of Denmark, nominated by the Western European and Others Group (WEOG), as President-designate of the Twenty-fifth Annual Conference. Upon the subsequent departure of Ambassador Erik Brøgger Rasmussen from Geneva, the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II endorsed his successor, Ambassador Ib Petersen, nominated by the WEOG.
8. The 2022 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention decided in its final report (CCW/MSP/2022/7, paragraph 37 (d)) that the Twenty-fifth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II would be held on 14 November 2023 in Geneva.

9. The Twenty-fifth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II was prepared for by a Group of Experts, which took place for two days from 9 to 10 November 2023 in Geneva, as decided by the 2022 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention in its final report (CCW/MSP/2022/7, paragraph 37 (a)).

II. Organization of the Twenty-Fifth Annual Conference

10. The Twenty-fifth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II was convened on 14 November 2023 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

11. The following High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II participated in the work of the Conference: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, India, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

12. The following High Contracting Parties to the Convention participated as observers: Cote d’Ivoire, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Togo, and the United Arab Emirates.

13. The following State participated as an observer: Singapore.

14. The representatives of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) also participated in the work of the Conference as observers.

15. The representatives of the following organizations also took part in the work of the Conference as observers: European Union, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

16. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations and other entities also took part in the work of the Conference as observers: Danish Refugee Council, Human Rights Watch, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights, Network of the Independent Commission for Human Rights in the Northern Africa, Norwegian People’s Aid and The Halo Trust.

III. Work of the Twenty-Fifth Annual Conference

17. The Twenty-fifth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II was opened on 14 November 2023 by Ambassador Yuri Borissov Sterk of Bulgaria, as President of the Twenty-fourth Annual Conference, who presided over the confirmation of the nomination of Ambassador Ib Petersen of Denmark as President of the Twenty-fifth Annual Conference.

18. The Conference held two plenary meetings. At its first plenary meeting, the Conference also confirmed the nominations of Ambassador Shen Jian of China, Mr. Nikola Yakov of Bulgaria, and Ambassador Zaman Mehdi of Pakistan as Vice-Presidents.

19. At the same plenary meeting, the Conference adopted its agenda, as contained in CCW/AP.II/CONF.25/1. The High Contracting Parties were not able to confirm the rules of procedure as contained in CCW/AP.II/CONF.15/7 and its corrigendum (CCW/AP.II/CONF.15/7/Corr.1), as no consensus on this matter was reached.

21. In accordance with Article 13, paragraph 4 of the Protocol, the Conference had before it national annual reports from the following High Contracting Parties: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Holy See, Hungary, India, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Mauritius, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

22. The reports contained information on:
   (a) Dissemination of information on the Protocol to armed forces and to the civilian population;
   (b) Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;
   (c) Steps taken to meet technical requirements of the Protocol and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;
   (d) Legislation related to the Protocol;
   (e) Measures taken on international technical information exchange, on international cooperation on mine clearance, and on technical cooperation and assistance;
   (f) Other relevant matters; and
   (g) Information provided to the database on mine clearance established within the United Nations System.

A synopsis of national annual reports submitted for the Twenty-fifth Annual Conference is contained in annex III of this report.

IV. Follow-up

23. The Conference decided that the 2024 session of the Group of Experts will be for a duration of two days and the dates are to be decided by the Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention, to be held on 15 to 17 November 2023. The Conference also adopted the estimated costs of the Group of Experts, as contained in CCW/AP.II/CONF.25/3.

24. The Conference decided that the Group of Experts will review the operation and status of the Protocol, including matters arising from reports by High Contracting Parties according to Article 13 (4) of Amended Protocol II, under the overall responsibility of the President-designate; and the issues on IED, under the overall responsibility of the IED Coordinators. The work of the Group of Experts will be considered by the Twenty-sixth Annual Conference.

25. The Conference decided that the Twenty-sixth Annual Conference will be convened in 2024 on the dates to be decided by the Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention, to be held on 15 to 17 November 2023. The Conference decided to recommend to the Twenty-sixth Annual Conference a provisional agenda, as contained in annex II. It also adopted the estimated costs of the Twenty-sixth Annual Conference, as contained in CCW/AP.II/CONF.25/4.

26. The Conference decided to nominate a representative of the Eastern European Group (EEG) as President-designate of the Twenty-sixth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II to be held in 2024, and representatives of China,
the Western European and Others Group (WEOG) and the Group of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) as Vice-Presidents-designates.

27. At its second plenary meeting, the Twenty-fifth Annual Conference adopted its final document as contained in CCW/AP.II/CONF.25/CRP.3, as orally amended, which will be issued as document CCW/AP.II/CONF.25/5.
An appeal by the Twenty-fifth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II

(as adopted at the second plenary meeting on 14 November 2023)

We, the High Contracting Parties which have notified the Depositary of our consent to be bound by Amended Protocol II to the CCW, meeting in Geneva on 14 November 2023 for our Twenty-fifth Annual Conference:

Bearing in mind the important contribution of Amended Protocol II to international efforts to alleviate the suffering caused by certain conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects,

Noting that Amended Protocol II is the only international legal instrument which covers all types of mines, booby-traps and other devices,

Having reviewed the operation and status of Amended Protocol II, in accordance with paragraph 3 (a) of Article 13,

Having considered the national annual reports presented by High Contracting Parties which have notified the Depositary of their consent to be bound by Amended Protocol II,

1. Welcome the fact that 106 High Contracting Parties have notified the Depositary of their consent to be bound by Amended Protocol II;

2. Emphasize the importance of achieving universalization of Amended Protocol II, including widest possible adherence to it;

3. Urge all States that have not yet done so to take all measures to accede to Amended Protocol II as soon as possible.
Annex II

Provisional agenda of the Twenty-sixth Annual Conference

(as recommended by the Twenty-fifth Annual Conference at its second plenary meeting on 14 November 2023)

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Confirmation of the nomination of the President and other officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Confirmation of the rules of procedure
5. Appointment of the Secretary-General of the Conference
6. Organization of work including that of any subsidiary bodies of the Conference
7. General exchange of views
8. Review of the operation and status of the Protocol
9. Consideration of matters arising from reports by High Contracting Parties according to Article 13 (4) of the amended Protocol
10. Improvised Explosive Devices (IED)
11. Report(s) of any subsidiary organ(s)
12. Adoption of the estimated costs for 2025
13. Other matters
14. Consideration and adoption of the final document
Annex III

Synopsis of National Annual Reports submitted for the Twenty-fifth Annual Conference

Forms used

Form A: Dissemination of information
Form B: Mine clearance and rehabilitation program
Form C: Technical requirements and relevant information
Form D: Legislation
Form E: International technical information exchange, co-operation on mine clearance, technical co-operation and assistance
Form F: Other relevant matters
Form G: Information to the UN database on mine clearance

Notes

Standard: Standard or normal reporting format provided
Summary: Summary sheet provided with (or without) the Form(s) that have changed relative to the previous report attached
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Annex IV

List of High Contracting Parties which have notified the Depositary of their consent to be bound by the Amended Protocol II (as of 14 November 2023)

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