
Seventeenth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War 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

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English only

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Item 8 of the agenda

General exchange of views

Ukraine's implementation of Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War to the CCW

Submitted by Ukraine

1. Ukraine recognizes and highly values the important role played by Protocol V of the CCW in addressing post-conflict remedial measures in order to minimize the occurrence, risk and effects of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) on human beings and the environment.
2. Ukraine believes it is important to ensure proper implementation and universalization of this document and share the experience on existing ERW detection and destruction technologies. Furthermore, particular attention should be paid to those State-Parties to Protocol V, which have an urgent need for eradication of Explosive Remnants of War.
3. Unfortunately, this issue has become critically relevant for Ukraine due to the ongoing russian aggression against my country.
4. Since the start of its aggression against Ukraine in 2014, the Russian Federation has been continuously contaminating the territory of my country. The situation has significantly deteriorated since Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The russian forces have been using all types of weapons, including those prohibited by the CCW and its Protocols, including booby trap mines, improvised explosive devices (IED's), phosphorous and thermobaric munition, incendiary weapons, and contaminated a significant part of Ukraine's territory with mines and explosive remnants of war, which pose a long-lasting threat to civilian population, as well as to infrastructure and economic development, hinder humanitarian access, access to agricultural land, limit the movement of people. 174 000 km² of Ukraine's territory, including sea areas, need to be surveyed for explosive hazards.
5. Despite of all these challenges Ukraine continues to conduct comprehensive demining operations throughout the liberated areas to ensure the safety of civilians and to create conditions for sustainable development in the affected regions.
6. In full compliance with Ukraine's obligations under Protocol V, demining teams and pyrotechnic units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, State Special Transport Service of Ukraine, State Emergency Service of Ukraine, National Police, National Guard of Ukraine take all necessary measures to destroy and dispose the ERW from our territory, including with international technical and financial assistance and support.
7. In order to identify and clear the territory from the explosive ordnance, Ukrainian deminers carry out non-technical survey and marking of territories, examination and clearance of explosive ordnance in densely populated areas and other territories of Ukraine as well as conduct ammunition disposal.
8. Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion more than 453 000 explosive objects have been detected, identified and disposed in the liberated areas (including 3,123 aerial bombs). Among the common types of explosive devices detected by the security and defense



forces of Ukraine are artillery shells, mortar mines, rocket artillery shells, aerial bombs, aerial missiles, anti-tank mines and the most dangerous variety of anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions.

9. Ukrainian deminers have already cleared about 3600 km of highways, 7500 km of electrical lines and 522 km of gas pipelines.

10. Currently, the main efforts are focused on the demining of the territories of Kharkiv, Kherson, Donetsk, Kyiv, Chernihiv and Sumy regions liberated from the Russian occupiers.

11. New challenges brought by Russia's full-scale war require new approaches and new measures. We widely use modern methods to clear our territories from explosive ordnance. It includes mechanized demining, the use of drones and robotic systems for the disposal of explosive ordnance, etc.

12. Ukraine continues to develop legal framework for the functioning of the mine action system. In the situation of the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine, the Government of Ukraine attaches particular importance to feasible precautions and protection of the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian objects from the risks and effects of explosive remnants of war.

13. In accordance with Part 2 of the Technical Annex of the Protocol V, relevant governmental agencies of Ukraine inform civilian population about risks, conduct marking, fencing and monitoring of territory affected by explosive remnants of war.

14. Explosive ordnance risk education has been incorporated in school and university education programs in Ukraine.

15. In cooperation with Geneva International Centre for humanitarian demining the National Mine Action Authority of Ukraine has launched an interactive map of the areas contaminated with mines and ERW, which is also available in the mobile apps.

16. In the framework of educational campaign, relevant authorities of Ukraine have redoubled their outreach efforts among the population on the procedures and rules of behaviour in the event of detection of explosive ordnance, in particular by:

- Broadcasting of thematic videos at public places of the Ukrainian cities such as railway stations, trains, subways;
- Distributing leaflets, booklets and other information materials;
- Producing thematic TV and radio programs;
- Making outreach to the general public, workers and employees of enterprises and organizations;
- Providing relevant trainings, etc.

17. Ukraine attaches significant importance to the international cooperation with more than 30 countries, international organizations and companies, which support Ukraine's mine action efforts.

18. Ukraine is sincerely grateful for the continuing financial, technical and humanitarian assistance provided to Ukraine in this difficult time by many of our partners - United States of America, the United Kingdom, Canada, the EU, France, Germany, the Czech Republic, Norway, Slovak Republic, Japan, Republic of Korea, Austria, Sweden, Netherlands, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Ireland, Iceland, the Kingdom of Denmark, Spain, Switzerland, Türkiye, UNICEF, UNMAS, UNDP, ICRC, OSCE, GICHD, The Howard Buffett foundation, Norwegian People's Aid, the Halo Trust, Danish Refugee Council.

19. Ukraine continues to call upon the states parties to the CCW and its Protocol V to redouble their efforts to make Russia stop its military aggression against Ukraine in order to prevent a catastrophic increase in the number of victims of explosive remnants of war.