

Nineteenth Annual 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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Agenda item 8

General exchanges of views

Working Paper

Submitted by Ukraine *

1. Ukraine recognises and highly values the important role of Protocol V of the CCW. Despite the challenges posed by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, we are making every effort to comply with our obligations under the Protocol V.
2. This treaty is one of the key instruments of international humanitarian law. However, there is one country that does not consider it necessary to comply with this law. The Russian Federation continues the shameful practice of violating fundamental norms of international humanitarian law, including the obligations under the Protocol V of the CCW.
3. The scale of the Russia's unlawful actions indicate deliberate intent and the aggressor country's state policy of using means of warfare restricted by international humanitarian law.
4. Among the numerous violations is the use of anti-personnel and improvised mines, which the Russian Federation uses in large quantities.
5. The relevant services of Ukraine recorded cases of the use by the Russia of weapons restricted by international humanitarian law, including mines, cluster munitions and other explosive devices, which, due to their characteristics, have an indiscriminate effect and cause excessive suffering. Only during the period from August to October 2025, the Russian Federation used more than two dozen different types of weapons on Ukrainian territory, including cluster munitions and submunitions, mines and ballistic missiles with fragmentation warhead.
6. Russia intensified the practice of terror against the civilian population of Ukraine. Russian perpetrators deliberately and systematically use cluster munitions to maximize civilian casualties and destruction. In just one week, from 27 October to 2 November, Russia has launched over 1 500 attack drones, 1 170 guided aerial bombs, and nearly 70 missiles of various types.
7. Russian troops continue their terror campaign based on active use of drones to drop PFM-1 scatterable anti-personnel mines on facilities used by civilians, as well as UAV engagement to conceal OZM-72 deadly anti-personnel mines in a sort of new Victim Operated type of Improvised Explosive Device.
8. Since the beginning of the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the massive and indiscriminate use of mines, booby traps and improvised explosive devices by Russian armed forces in areas and facilities inhabited or used by civilians, as well as the contamination of explosive remnants of war, has resulted in 947 accidents.

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



9. A total of 1,345 people were killed or wounded, including 136 children. 871 civilians who were blown up by Russian mines suffered lifelong injuries and require prosthetics and ongoing rehabilitation. Most of the civilians who have fallen victim to Russian mines are farmers (247 people), critical infrastructure workers (138 people), pensioners (123 people) and schoolchildren (127 people) – none of whom are involved in the fighting in any way.

10. Today, according to the preliminary estimates, the total area of the territory of Ukraine, which is supposed to be contaminated by explosive ordnance and requires non-technical and technical surveys and further humanitarian demining, is about 136 952 square kilometres. This territory includes maritime waters and areas where combat operations took place as well as territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation.

11. Despite these challenges, Ukraine continues to conduct comprehensive demining operations in full compliance with its obligations under Protocol V.

12. Demining teams and pyrotechnic units of the security and defence forces of Ukraine take all measures to dispose and destroy the ERW throughout the country. As of the end of October 2025, approximately 158 square kilometres of territory had been cleared, and 1,027,404 explosive ordnance items had been detected and destroyed. Ukrainian deminers have already cleared about 9 730 km of highways, 10 213 km of electrical lines and 914 km of gas pipelines.

13. Our country attaches great importance to international cooperation in the field of demining. We are grateful to all partner countries and organizations for providing technical and humanitarian assistance in the context of demining the territory of Ukraine. We look forward to continuing fruitful cooperation under Protocol V with a view to effective clearance operations, risk education and victim assistance.

14. Ukraine welcomes the important outcomes of the annual Ukraine Mine Action Conference 2025 (UMAC-2025) held on 22-23 October 2025 in Tokyo and supported by over 70 countries and international organizations. The final document of the Conference “Acceleration toward Reconstruction in Tokyo, Japan”, was supported by 40 countries and 4 international organizations. This document emphasizes that the ongoing war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine has severe humanitarian consequences, in particular the massive contamination of Ukrainian territory with mines and other explosive remnants of war, which pose a grave danger to the civilian population.

15. In upholding our shared commitments under Protocol V, Ukraine once again calls upon the international community to exert every possible effort to make Russia immediately cease hostilities to prevent further civilian casualties and reduce additional contamination of our land by explosive remnants of war.

16. Through joint efforts, we must hold Russia accountable for all blatant violations of international law, including Protocol V to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).
