

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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Working Paper

Submitted by China *

1. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War. To this day, many countries around the world continue to suffer from the threats posed by explosive remnants of war (ERW). As one of the countries affected by such remnants, each year large quantities of explosive remnants abandoned by foreign aggressors are discovered in the territory of China, posing serious threats to the lives and property of its people.
2. China attaches great importance to the significant role of the Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. China faithfully fulfills its obligations under the Protocol, strengthens relevant institutional mechanisms, submits its national implementation reports on time, and pays its assessed contributions on time and in full. At the same time, China is acutely aware of the serious threats that explosive remnants of war pose to regional peace and social development, as well as the humanitarian concerns they have caused, and remains committed to participating in and providing international cooperation and assistance within its capacity.
3. Currently, protracted armed conflicts in many regions of the world are generating large quantities of new ERW. Achieving the Protocol's objectives remains a daunting task. How to prevent and clear existing ERW and those that may arise in the future and minimize the risks and effects of ERW remains a real and pressing challenge. China supports further strengthening the universality of the Protocol. We call upon states that have not yet joined the Protocol, particularly those that have left explosive remnants of war in the territory of other states, to accede to it as soon as possible, and, in keeping with the principle of user's responsibility to clearance, to provide the necessary financial, technical, and other forms of support, and to earnestly shoulder their due historical responsibilities. China noted the successful convening of the Preparatory Meeting of States on the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management in May this year, and expects the relevant process to help strengthen the through-life management of conventional ammunition and prevent the generation of new ERW.

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



4. Next year marks the 20th anniversary of the Protocol's entry into force and will also witness the convening of the Seventh Review Conference of the CCW. China is ready to take this opportunity to uphold the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, actively implement the Global Security Initiative, and participate deeply in the implementation of the Protocol and related international cooperation. China is committed to further enhancing the universality and effectiveness of the Protocol and making greater contributions to addressing the humanitarian concerns caused by explosive remnants of war.
