

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

12 November 2025

English only

Geneva, 10 November 2025

Agenda item 8

General exchanges of views

Working Paper

Submitted by United Kingdom *

1. The Protocol entered into force in the UK days after the 18th Conference and we were proud to be able participate in the Group of Experts Meeting in September. We are therefore pleased to be joining you as the 99th High Contracting Party, and we hope more will follow in the near future. We have used the UK's accession to the Protocol to promote its importance – and that of the CCW more generally – with a number of States over the past year. We encourage all High Contracting Parties to do similarly, with this Protocol still enjoying the fewest High Contracting Parties, save for the original Protocol II.
2. Protocol V compliments the other four Protocols within the Convention and is also complementary to other important treaties, such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions providing clear standards and obligations for States at the conclusion of a conflict. All these treaties, alongside the CCW's other Protocols, remain of vital importance in protecting the lives of civilians in both conflict and post-conflict settings, and aiding in efforts towards recovery.
3. Ultimately, our priority should be taking all preventive steps to reduce the use of explosive weapons and those which can have indiscriminate and lingering effects, particularly in highly populated areas with high concentrations of civilians. This is also supported by the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas. We urge all states who have not endorsed the Political Declaration to do so, and we look forward to taking part in discussions in Costa Rica next week on how we can further strengthen its universalisation and implementation. Protocol V provides clear commitments to complement the Political Declaration and together, both work to reduce the long-term impacts of the use of explosive weapons.
4. While UK operational policy has been in-line with Protocol V since its inception, we are continuing to raise awareness of the Protocol and the UK's obligations within our system and hope to be able to share more about UK practice with others in good time.

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

