

**Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)
Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)
Informal open consultations**

8 November 2023

Provisional Programme of Work

Status: 06 November 2023

10AM-1PM

1. Opening of the meeting

The President-designate of the 17th Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, Ambassador Gordan Markotić, Charge d’Affaires, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations in Geneva, will outline the Programme of Work. The meeting will build on the work of the 16th Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V and of the 2022 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW.

2. Thematic discussion on victim assistance

The Coordinator on Victim Assistance, Mr. Andreas Bilgeri of Austria, will give an overview of the main trends identified in the national annual reports when it comes to victim assistance.

The panel discussion will be moderated by the Coordinator on Victim Assistance. Experts will focus on victim assistance strategies implemented by High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, and on regional approaches. The panel will be composed of:

- Ms. Christelle Loupforest, Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) Office in Geneva;
- Mr. Boungalith Southichak, Minister Counselor at the Permanent Mission of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Mr. Phetdavone Keosomphumee, Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic;
- Ms. Elanie Marks, World Health Organization (WHO).

Delegations are encouraged to consider the following guiding questions during their interventions:

- What kind of long-term support do you provide to victims after ERW accidents either in your country or in another country through cooperation and assistance?
- What obstacles do you encounter in the provision of victim assistance, including obstacles in health care?
- How do you ensure the full participation of victims in society, particularly women and girls and ethnic minorities? How are gender and diversity dimensions included in your victim assistance programs?

- What risk education activities has your country undertaken? Has your country identified areas of risk education where further work is necessary?
- How do you ensure that affected individuals and communities are meaningfully involved in victim assistance planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation?
- How do you ensure that your national measures on victim assistance respect an integrated approach?

3PM-6PM

3. Thematic discussion on clearance of explosive remnants of war and technical assistance

The Coordinator on Clearance and Technical Assistance, Ms. Hannah Abubakar of the Philippines, will give an overview of the main trends identified in the national annual reports related to technical assistance.

The panel discussion will be moderated by the Coordinator on Clearance and Technical Assistance. The panel will be composed of:

- Mr. Miroslav Pisarevic, Programme Manager of the Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) Mine Action and Disarmament Programme in Zimbabwe;
- Mr. Erik Tollefsen, Head of Weapon Contamination Unit, Department of Protection and Essential Services International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Delegations are encouraged to consider the following questions during their interventions:

- For States that are affected, can you share good practices for the effective clearance of ERW?
 - o How do you adapt these practices to densely populated areas or in the presence of non-state armed groups?
 - o How do you incorporate the SDGs and the protection of biodiversity and the environment in the clearance process?
- How do you take into account the specific consequences of ERW on women and children in your policies? Do your policies give an active role to women in the clearance process?
- Which challenges do you face during the clearance process, and how do you overcome them? Are there any tools or new technologies – such as drones or artificial intelligence - that improve the clearance of ERW?

4. Closing of the meeting

The President-designate will close the meeting and outline his plans for the 17th Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V to be held on 13 November 2023.