

**Excerpts from the Report of the Meeting of the States Parties in 2002, as contained in
CCW/MSP/2002/2**

“21. The Meeting of the States Parties decided that the Working Group on Explosive Remnants of War would continue its work in the year 2003 with the following mandate:

- (a) (i) To negotiate an instrument on post-conflict remedial measures of a generic nature which would reduce the risks of ERW. These measures would be based on a broad definition covering most types of explosive munitions, with the exception of mines. Abandoned munitions would have to be included. In these negotiations, questions need to be considered regarding, inter alia, responsibility for clearance, existing ERW, the provision of information to facilitate clearance and risk education, warnings to civilian populations, assistance & co-operation, and a framework for regular consultations of High Contracting Parties. These negotiations would have to establish the scope of this instrument consistent with Article I of the Convention as amended at its Second Review Conference.
- (a) (ii) To explore and determine whether these negotiations could successfully address preventive generic measures for improving the reliability of munitions that fall within the agreed broad definition, through voluntary best practices concerning the management of manufacturing, quality control, handling and storage of munitions. Exchange of information, assistance and co-operation would be important elements of such best practices.
- (b) Separate from the negotiations under (a): to continue to consider the implementation of existing principles of International Humanitarian Law and to further study, on an open ended basis, possible preventive measures aimed at improving the design of certain specific types of munitions, including sub-munitions, with a view to minimise the humanitarian risk of these munitions becoming ERW. Exchange of information, assistance and co-operation would be part of this work.
- (c) In the context of the activities described above, meetings of military experts can be conducted to provide advice in support of these activities.

22. The Meeting of the States Parties decided that the Working Group on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines would continue its work in the year 2003 with the following mandate:

- (a) To continue to explore the issue of mines other than anti-personnel mines. The group shall consider the most appropriate way to reduce the risks posed by the irresponsible use of mines other than anti-personnel mines, including the possibility to conclude a negotiating mandate for a new instrument and other appropriate measures. The Group of Governmental Experts shall take into account:
 - the necessity to strike the right balance between humanitarian concerns and military utility of MOTAPM;
 - existing restrictions on such mines in Amended Protocol II to the CCW;

- technical and other measures aimed at minimizing the humanitarian risks posed by such mines as well as the modalities for their effective implementation, such as international cooperation and assistance, transition periods etc.;
 - questions involving the use of MOTAPM by non-state actors;
 - any question involving other aspects of such mines.
- (b) In the context of the activities described above, meetings of military experts can be conducted to provide advice in support of these activities.

23. The Meeting of the States Parties decided that the Chairman-designate shall undertake consultations during the intersessional period on possible options to promote compliance with the Convention and its annexed Protocols, taking into account proposals put forward, and shall submit a report, adopted by consensus, to the States Parties.

24. The Meeting of the States Parties took note of the report presented by Switzerland related to Small Calibre Weapons and Ammunition. The Meeting invites interested States Parties to the Convention to continue informal meetings at expert level with regard to identified subject areas for possible further development.

25. At its third plenary meeting, the Meeting of the States Parties decided to commission follow-up work under the oversight of the Chairman-designate of a Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention to be held on 27-28 November 2003 in Geneva in conjunction with the Fifth Annual Conference of the States Parties to Amended Protocol II.

26. At the same plenary meeting, on 13 December 2002, the Meeting of the States Parties decided that the intersessional work of the Group of Governmental Experts will be undertaken in three sessions in Geneva during 2003:

- 10 – 14 March 2003
- 16 – 27 June 2003
- 17 – 24 November 2003

27. The Meeting of the States Parties addressed the issue of the dates and duration of the Fifth Annual Conference of the States Parties to Amended Protocol II and decided that it be held on 26 November 2003 in Geneva.

28. Without prejudice to the generally accepted principle of rotation, the States Parties decided to re-designate Ambassador Rakesh Sood of India as Chairman of the Meeting of the States Parties to be held in the year 2003, and reappointed the two Coordinators for the Group of Governmental Experts: Ambassador Chris Sanders of the Netherlands on Explosive Remnants of War, and Minister Counsellor Peter Kolarov of Bulgaria on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines.”