

**DECLARATION  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE ENTRY INTO FORCE  
OF THE PROTOCOL ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR  
(PROTOCOL V) ADOPTED BY THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE  
ON 13 NOVEMBER 2006**

*The High Contracting Parties 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,*

*Recalling* the general principle of the protection of the civilian population against the effects of hostilities,

*Deeply concerned* at the fact that after the end of hostilities, people continue to be killed or injured by unexploded and abandoned explosive ordnance, and that such explosive remnants of war can remain for decades a cause of humanitarian suffering, a daily threat to civilians and military alike, an obstacle to the return of refugees and other displaced persons, a serious impediment to humanitarian assistance, peace-keeping, post-conflict reconstruction and economic development, as well as to the restoration of normal social conditions,

*Recalling* that the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) was negotiated by the Group of Governmental Experts in 2003 and was adopted by consensus on 28 November 2003 at the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention held in Geneva on 27 and 28 November 2003,

*Recognizing* that Protocol V provides for post-conflict remedial measures of a generic nature in order to minimize the risks and the effects of explosive remnants of war and for encouraging States Parties to take such post-conflict remedial measures and generic preventive measures aimed at minimizing the occurrence of explosive remnants of war,

*Emphasizing* the importance that they attach to the universalization of Protocol V, and *expressing* their determination to take all appropriate measures so that Protocol V attains universal adherence,

*Welcome* the entry into force of Protocol V on 12 November 2006 and the fact that 26 States have notified the Depository of their consent to be bound by Protocol V by that date,

*Reaffirm* their conviction that Protocol V aims to significantly reduce the suffering and contribute to the protection of the civilian population and humanitarian personnel from the effects of explosive remnants of war,

*Reiterate* their determination to address the humanitarian, developmental and environmental impact of explosive remnants of war, including existing explosive remnants of war, and *welcome* the efforts already undertaken in this regard,

*Emphasize* their determination to reinforce international cooperation and assistance on the issues related to the implementation of Protocol V, and, in particular, in clearance, removal or destruction of explosive remnants of war, transmission of information, protection of humanitarian missions and organizations, risk education, victim assistance, and to dedicate greater efforts and resources, as appropriate, towards that end,

*Encourage* High Contracting Parties to Protocol V to commence preparations for a Conference, in accordance with Article 10 of the Protocol,

*Urge* all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Protocol, as soon as possible.

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