



## United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

### Meeting of the **Preparatory Committee for the Fifth Review Conference** to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)

(31 August – 2 September)

#### General Exchange of Views

Geneva, 31 August 2016

*Delivered by Mr. Bruno Donat, Chief, Geneva office, UNMAS*

Madam Chairperson<sup>1</sup>,

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) comprising the United Nations entities<sup>2</sup> involved in mine action.

The CCW is an important platform for advancing discussions towards the further development of international humanitarian law. The United Nations trusts that High Contracting Parties will find a way to respond, with positive action, to the call by the international community for new rules of international humanitarian law. While this certainly applies to the matter of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), the focus of this intervention would be on matters of direct relevance to mine action, including the issue of improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Madam Chairperson<sup>3</sup>,

Today the United Nations wishes to highlight two key matters in relation to the 5<sup>th</sup> Review Conference to the CCW.

First, the United Nations acknowledges the valuable discussions held, and welcomes the declaration adopted in the framework of Amended Protocol II with regard to the insidious threat of IEDs. In particular, these are increasingly being used as a weapon of choice, especially by armed non-state actors. Discussions on IEDs are not (and should not be) confined to the CCW context. Nonetheless, these opportunities to exchange best practices and experiences have contributed to enhanced knowledge and understanding among States and other actors on the impact of IEDs, and on measures to counter their effects.

The United Nations believes that the important role of the CCW in regard to IEDs should explicitly be acknowledged in the final report of the Fifth Review Conference.

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<sup>1</sup> Ambassador Tehmina Janjua of Pakistan.

<sup>2</sup> The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) (Chair), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Observer), and the World Bank (Observer).

<sup>3</sup> Ambassador Tehmina Janjua of Pakistan.



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Second, the United Nations reiterates its view that existing international rules applicable to mines other than antipersonnel mines are insufficient to properly address the humanitarian and socio-economic impact of their use or presence. The Fifth Review Conference provides High Contracting Parties with a useful forum for discussions and follow-up negotiations to this end. The United Nations, therefore, makes a strong call for High Contracting Parties to include anti-vehicle mines within the agenda of the Fifth Review Conference and beyond.

Madam Chairperson<sup>4</sup>,

The United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to call upon High Contracting Parties to submit their national annual reports under Amended Protocol II and Protocol V, as well as reports pursuant to paragraph 5 of the decision on Compliance, as adopted by the Third Review Conference. High Contracting Parties are also encouraged to provide names of experts on CCW and its Protocols to the Pool of Experts, which was established pursuant to the relevant decision by the Third Review Conference.

Once again this week, the United Nations congratulates Bahrain and Côte d'Ivoire for joining the CCW, and reiterates its call to non-High Contracting Parties to join the Convention and its Protocols at the earliest possible date.

Thank you.

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<sup>4</sup> Ambassador Tehmina Janjua of Pakistan.