

**Intervention to the Third Review Conference
of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons**

**Special Plenary Meeting to Mark
the Entry into Force of CCW Protocol V**

by

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Je salue votre initiative, Monsieur le Président, de consacrer une séance plénière spéciale à l'entrée en vigueur du *Protocole V de la Convention sur l'interdiction ou la limitation de l'emploi de certaines armes classiques*. Les Hautes Parties Contractantes qui l'ont ratifié à ce jour peuvent être fières d'avoir permis l'entrée en vigueur du Protocole, hier, dimanche 12 novembre.

Ceci est pour moi un moment mémorable, comme il avait été le 30 juillet 1998 lors de l'entrée en vigueur du *Protocole IV sur les Armes à laser aveuglantes*, puis le 3 décembre 1998 lors de l'entrée en vigueur du *Protocole II de la CCW modifié*, et aussi le 21 décembre 2001 lors de l'adoption de *l'art. 1 amendé de la CCW*.

Et laissez moi également soutenir - à titre personnel - l'appel du CICR pour une action internationale vigoureuse pour en finir avec la tragédie humaine liée aux munitions à dispersion, qui sont à mon avis déjà interdites par l'art. 51 du Protocole additionnel I de 1977 aux Conventions de Genève. Je me réjouirais de pouvoir être témoin, à une date rapprochée, - comme il y a 9 ans à Ottawa - de la signature d'un nouveau instrument juridique, qui traite effectivement du problème des munitions à dispersion.

The occasion of today's event allows me also to recall to the High Contracting Parties of the CCW that the mission of GICHD does include both, working for the elimination of anti-personnel mines, as well as for the reduction of the humanitarian impact of other landmines and explosive remnants of war. Indeed, the Centre deals already today with all types of explosive remnants of war (ERW), including all forms of mines, booby traps, unexploded ordnance (UXO)

and abandoned ordnance (AXO), and its human, social and developmental consequences.

The Centre has provided in the past, and will also continue to provide in the future, independent technical inputs and direct support into international efforts to minimise human suffering caused by weapons and/or explosive remnants of war, which is covered by the on-going work of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).

We are determined – now that the new Protocol has entered into force – to put our knowledge and advise to the benefit of State Parties. We will join them in making Protocol V a strong instrument, in order to achieve results to the benefit of the civilian population in post-conflict areas. Once more let us always have in mind the Potential victims !

The GICHD had supported - as you know - with specific studies the Dutch Coordinator in achieving agreement on Protocol V in November 2003. These studies covered ERW related issues, such as threat analysis, information requirements and warnings and risk education.

Now that Protocol V has entered into force, and State Parties will start to examine how to best implement it in the future, the GICHD can put its instruments and experience at disposal of the States. In the field of information management, our software IMSMA covers also ERW related data, and our experience with mine action standards, methodologies and techniques can be helpful in extending it more systematically to ERW related issues. When discussing possible implementation mechanism for Protocol V, our experience in supporting the implementation of the Mine Ban Convention could prove to be useful.

The GICHD remains committed to continuing to assist the CCW States Parties in any way they require. It is important that Protocol V implementation will be addressed very early next year in order to bring to the civilian populations the financial and technical assistance to their human sufferings caused by explosive remnants of war.

Finally, the Sponsorship programme for the CCW - to be agreed upon by the High Contracting Parties at the end of this week and foreseen to be implemented by the GICHD - will be a very valuable instrument to bring representatives of ERW affected countries to this very important forum.

Et encore un dernier mot, Monsieur le Président et Distingués Délégués. Le Protocole V, avec tous ses mérites, comprend souvent l'expression « autant que faire se peut ». Laissez moi en appeler aux Hautes Parties Contractantes d'avoir la volonté politique de faire ce que demande l'objectif prioritaire de cet instrument, qui reste celui de la protection de la population civile après un conflit armé.