
First Session
Geneva, 21-24 May 2002

European Union

Draft EU Food-for-Thought Paper on Mines Other Than Antipersonnel Mines

The Second Review Conference to the CCW in December 2001 decided to establish an open-ended Group of Governmental Experts with separate coordinators to address the issue of explosive remnants of war (ERW) and mines other than anti-personnel mines. A proposal for a Protocol to introduce certain restrictions on mines other than anti-personnel mines presented by twelve nations did not find consensus. Whereas the mandate is fairly detailed on ERW, on the topic of mines other than anti-personnel mines it simply states that the Group of Experts shall “further explore the issue of mines other than anti-personnel mines” and that “the coordinator shall submit a report, adopted by consensus, to the States Parties”.

It was further agreed that the intersessional work on both issues will be undertaken in three sessions during 2002 and that a meeting of States Parties shall be held on 12-13 December 2002 in Geneva. No decision, however, was taken on how the available time should be divided between the two issues.

Assuming that the majority of the available time will be used in order to achieve substantive progress on the issue of ERW, it is of great importance to make the best possible use of the remaining time to further explore the issue of mines other than anti-personnel mines.

The purpose of this paper is therefore to identify some questions around which a discussion could evolve. The broad mandate given by the Review Conference allows for a broad discussion taking into account ideas already presented during the preparation process for the Review Conference. It also allows for discussion on topics previously not discussed.

1. Humanitarian concerns:
 - What is the Scope of the humanitarian problem posed by mines other than anti-personnel mines?
 - What can be done to facilitate the rapid and safe clearance of mines other than anti-personnel mines?
 - How to balance military need with humanitarian concerns?

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2. Definition:

- Is “mines other than anti-personnel mines” an appropriate definition?
- Would it be preferable to speak instead about “anti-vehicle mines” or “anti-tank mines”?

3. Existing restrictions and provisions on mines other than anti-personnel mines:

- What are the existing restrictions and provisions regarding mines other than anti-personnel mines?
- Do they need improvement?

4. Technical and/or other measures:

Measures that could be considered to minimize the risk to civilians posed by certain mines other than anti-personnel mines such as self-deactivation, self-destruction or self-neutralisation of remotely delivered mines, detectability, and measures related to sensitive fuses and anti-handling devices.

5. Way ahead.
