

---

Third Session  
Geneva, 2-10 December 2002  
Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**Report on the Meeting of Military Experts at the Third Session of the  
Group of Governmental Experts of the States Parties to the CCW,  
held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2002**

1. During the Third Session the Group of Governmental Experts held a second meeting of military experts under the chairmanship of Col. Erwin Dahinden of Switzerland to deal with explosive remnants of war. The following issues were addressed during this meeting:

- threat assessments (prioritization/significance)
- technical improvements (reliability, feasibility, financial implications)
- ammunition management
- technical cooperation and assistance on the above mentioned aspects
- future work

2. For each of these issues participating experts made presentations, provided valuable insights in their national experience and contributed constructively to the discussion. The papers presented and the references made to existing studies and material especially with respect to best practices were very helpful and made important contributions to the on-going discussion on the issue of explosive remnants of war. Furthermore, the meeting helped to further clarify military, technical and conceptual issues, technical issues related to explosive remnants of war as well as to explore the potential of technical cooperation and assistance in this field. The various presentations also showed that for a number of countries the issue of explosive remnants of war as well as ways and means to reduce them have already led to changes in the development, procurement, production and management of various types of munitions and weapon systems. However, the meeting also made clear that there is insufficient knowledge and military and technical information available in order to deal comprehensively with all interrelated technical, military and conceptual issues related to explosive remnants of war. In this regard, suggestions were made that countries who are in a position to do so, should provide more detailed information about technical and military aspects of explosive remnants of war, in particular with respect to national procurement policies, good practices and practical experiences with avoiding and clearing them.

3. In the view of the coordinator on ERW both meetings of military experts in 2002 made a constructive contribution to the elaboration on the mandate and were complementary to the work of the group of governmental experts. They helped to gain a better understanding of the technical and military questions involved and in

numerous countries raised awareness among political and military decision-makers about this issue. They also encouraged the active participation of those military and technical experts that do normally not directly participate in the multilateral negotiation efforts.

4. With respect to the future work the participating countries shared the assessment of the Coordinator that the group of military experts should continue its work and make valuable contribution to the implementation of the mandate on explosive remnants of war. The future mandate will indicate the technical and military areas for further studies and focused considerations. On the basis of the mandate it might be useful to address specific technical and military questions. The on-going discussion on technical and military aspects of the explosive remnants of war would not only be complementary to the elaboration of an international instrument but also be highly beneficial to international cooperation and assistance in this area.

---