



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Ninth Conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

Statement on Article 3 (clearance, removal or destruction of ERW) and Article 4 (recording, retaining and transmission of information)

Geneva, 9-10 November 2015

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

Madam Coordinator¹,

Articles 3 and 4 of Protocol V are directly relevant to some of the core activities of the United Nations and in particular to UNMAS clearance expertise. This also explains why the United Nations participated on these matters during the Group of Experts meeting in April.

The United Nations welcomes your report and thanks you for its recommendations.

I should like, however, to draw your attention in particular to its paragraph 14. The United Nations suggests that recommendation (b) on the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) should be strengthened to encourage High Contracting Parties to implement existing IMAS effectively and to consider the possibility of further updating them and/or developing additional international standards. As currently phrased, “To discuss the utility of the IMAS [...]”, it may lead to misinterpretation, especially as I recall your words earlier on the importance of the IMAS.

Madam Coordinator,

With regards to Article 4, the United Nations wishes to recall the draft General Assembly resolution on assistance in mine action, adopted on 16 October without a vote by its Fourth Committee. It urges all States to support mine-affected states by providing “Necessary information and technical, financial and material assistance to locate, remove, destroy or otherwise render ineffective minefields, mines, improvised explosive devices, booby traps, other devices and explosive remnants of war, in accordance with international law, as soon as possible”.

Thank you.

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