

**(PASSED)**

**FORUM:** Disarmament Commission

**QUESTION OF:** Implementing measures to ensure the safe disposal of explosive remnants of war

**SUBMITTED BY:** Dominion of Canada,

**CO SUBMITTERS:** Kyrgyzstan, Cuba, Mozambique, Kenya, Austria,

THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION,

*Defining* explosive remnants of war (ERW) as explosive munitions left behind after a conflict has ended, they include unexploded artillery shells, grenades, mortars, rockets, air-dropped bombs, and cluster munitions, but not mines,

*Concerned* at the number of unexploded ordnances (UXOs) present even decades after conflict has occurred,

*Noting with regret* the dangers that disposal places on members of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams, as well as the risks that certain disposal methods like controlled detonation impose on the environment,

*Further noting* the nearly fifty-year-old international treaty that prohibits the use of biological, though unlike its sister-treaties, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, it lacks a verification system to ensure compliance,

*Alarmed* that explosive remnants are said to be present in more than 60 states,

*Noting that* such weapons are indiscriminate and can harm civilians,

*Understanding that* such weapons can cause damage to economies,

1. Calls for all relevant member states to sign and ratify The Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) as created in 2003 which will help promote cooperation between nation-states in order to safely dispose of all the explosive remnants of wars by:
  - a. taking actions against the member states who are not in compliance with the provisions agreed in The Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) through economic sanctions against the member states that are not in compliance with the provisions agreed upon
  - b. encouraging countries to promote the development of and compliance with international legal standards on landmines, ERW, including the ratification of instruments;
2. Urges the introduction of an added step to the system for the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) that is followed by environmental cleanup through phytoremediation once the area is deemed safe, through means such as but not limited to:

- a. employing the assistance of local communities for the care of suitable plants such as the common sunflower (*Helianthus annuus* L.) or Indian mustard (*Brassica Juncea* L.) by:
    - i. allocating plants from local producers, commissioned from specific sellers, or produced as part of the program, based on availability
    - ii. training participants on how to care for the plants as well as the development of guidelines for where to plant them
  - b. development of standards that dictate the level of contamination of the area so that teams know when the plants can be cleared away
  - c. removing the plants afterwards by harvesting them completely and then removing the contaminated soil for treatment;
3. Calls for greater restriction on hazardous areas where UXOs are detected in order to prevent civilian casualties through means such as but not limited to:
- a. the construction of fencing or similar obstructions in order to ward away civilians and communicate danger
  - b. working with local governments to station officers around the perimeters of hazardous areas to prevent civilians from entering, as well as training them to educate approaching civilians of why the areas are being blocked off;
4. Strongly recommends campaigns for Risk Education (RE) on social media and in public through means such as but not limited to:
- a. working with local or national governments to develop an RE plan,
  - b. social media accounts or websites run by governments that display relevant important information, including:
    - i. maps that show where dangerous areas are and how to avoid them
    - ii. the steps to take in terms of contacting local authorities
  - d. government commissioned pieces on general media to inform viewers, including:
    - i. news articles or broadcasts that discuss and report on the status of those areas as well as the potential risks of approaching them, in order to keep the public informed
    - ii. government-commissioned television advertisements that debrief the public on necessary precautions as well as steps to deal with ERWs in the instance that they should happen to come across one
  - e. placing posters in important public areas that contain maps and information on risky areas
  - f. an online seminar from an authority or expert in dealing with ERWs to give a warning speech that would explain what to do when dealing with ERWs
  - g. risk education programs or meetings at schools to educate children on necessary precautions;

5. Endorses and suggests the creation of a non-profit organization named United Nations Organization of Medical Assistance and Care for Explosive Remnants of Waste, (UNOMAC) that will be responsible for tasks such as but not limited to:
  - a. suggesting the development of technology that can help support the removal of UXOs through means such as but not limited to:
    - i. international cooperation to develop the technology that supports the removal of UXOs such as gradiometers, underwater electromagnets, Heavy-Duty Work Class Remotely Operated Vehicles (HD-WROV), etc., emphasizing transparency and sharing of research reports on related projects through means such as pictures and data that is supported with clear evidence
    - ii. consistent development of reports between participating nations through an Ordnance Disposal and Waste Treatment Convention held every four months,
    - iii. continuing research on the development of more discriminating metal detectors that can separate bombs from scrap metal
    - iv. suggesting a UN international policy that states that all explosive weapons produced should have a system installed that would disable the trigger system
  - b. sponsoring informational sessions in which experts would communicate with each other to develop feasible solutions
  - c. managing the earlier-mentioned rehabilitation programs by:
    - i. creating medicine for all patients that have been affected by chemical/biological weapons
    - ii. hiring staff and doctors to take care of the patients
  - d. requesting MEDC member states to fund and supply UNOMAC by providing funds for medical supplies and manufacturing medical products on a large scale;
6. Recommends affected nations to find and react to bombs through means such as but not limited to:
  - a. collaboration with NGOs such as SafeLane Global to search for bombs in areas noted to be of high risk
  - b. contacting UNMAS when bombs or affected areas are discovered and specifying:
    - i. which local authorities should set up temporary restrictions to prevent civilian interaction with the UXOs until the UNMAS can arrive
    - ii. informing the public when such dangerous objects are observed;
7. Urges member states to establish victim assistance that covers care and rehabilitation for activities that aim to meet the immediate and long-term needs of landmine survivors, their families, and affected communities in ways such as but not limited to:
  - a. establishing medical centers in hospitals to assist victims
  - b. offering vocational training to workers who are out of work;
8. Request human rights and humanitarian partners to have an interest in assisting in the care of ramifications of UXOs;

9. Suggests all states to join the Convention on Cluster Munitions in order to lessen the amount of UXOs left over from conflicts by providing various incentives;
10. Affirms the UN's creation of rehabilitation/home programmes for citizens who have been greatly affected by explosive remnants of war, which deal with parts including but not limited to:
  - a. helping children/adults that have been harmed by explosive remnants of war with learning skills and topics such as but not limited to:
    - i. social skills, such as how to answer questions based on their genetic mutation
    - ii. teaching basic mathematics, sciences, history, and their first language
  - b. giving citizens a reliable home for the duration of the first stage of rehabilitation, as follows:
    - i. serviced apartments built specifically for this purpose, stocked with all the basics for life, including food, water, beds, clothing, etc.
    - ii. being reasonably staffed, so that there is at least one cook, psychiatrist, cleaner, etc. for every 30 people in the center, also allowing volunteers to help in the center
  - c. reintegrating people into their society by dealing with aspects such as:
    - i. finding homeless children a new home with a good adoptive family, and if not possible, placing them in an orphanage
    - ii. enrolling them in a school where special needs teachers can help them if necessary
    - iii. giving adults a housing system for up to three years, or until they get a stable job
- a. guaranteeing that the rehabilitation program continues during the above reintegration process through regular visits to monitor their progression;
11. Strongly urges that one of the main priorities of all member states should be focused on minimizing physical evidence of explosive weapons in civilian environments, and to implement the appropriate neutralizing mechanisms for their explosive remnants of war such as but not limited to:
  - a. obliterating explosive remnants of war such as but not limited to:
    - i. unexploded artillery shells
    - ii. grenades
    - iii. mortars
    - iv. rockets
    - v. air-dropped bombs
    - vi. cluster munitions
  - b. using the appropriate neutralizing mechanisms to obliterate assembled ERWs with EOD specialists such as but not limited to:
    - i. remote control vehicles
    - ii. projectile disruptors
    - iii. lasers
    - iv. blast containment receptacles

- c. urging the member states to put more effort into aiding civilians in their country that may have been mentally or physically harmed by explosive remnants of war in ways such as but not limited to:
  - i. creating rehabilitation hospitals and facilities specific to aiding ERW-affected civilians
  - ii. aiding farmers and laborers that work on contaminated land with food production
- d. not forgetting the importance of protecting the environment and the people, and complying with the GICHD to dispose of any explosive remnants of war in such ways as:
  - i. not dumping the ERW in any body of water
  - ii. minimizing damage to arable land.