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## Statement by Mr Boris Ohanyan, GICHD

### CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW) Sixteenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V Monday, 14 November 2022 Room XIX

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on your appointment and thank you for steering our work throughout the year.

Protocol V aims to address the humanitarian risks and effects of explosive remnants of war in post-conflict situations. Experience from ongoing and recent conflicts, however, highlights that demining efforts are critical to mitigate such effects also while hostilities are ongoing. Two areas of activity are fundamental in this respect.

First, evidence-based decision-making, that is central to the effectiveness and efficiency of demining operations, is even more critical in emergency situations, as clearly shown in the case of Ukraine. The information management system used by Ukrainian authorities to plan and prioritise mine action tasks in peacetime has transitioned to an emergency coordination platform that aggregates, interprets and shares data to map areas with explosive ordnance threats. This Mine Action Information Management (IM) cell, coordinated by the GICHD, allows national authorities to plan and implement necessary actions to remove explosive ordnance while hostilities are ongoing, with the support of UN agencies and mine action operators.

Second, risk education is critical to protect civilians from explosive ordnance threats especially in emergencies and other contexts where full clearance is not feasible, and where large population movements increase the vulnerability of millions of people to explosive threats. In March, the EORE Advisory Group, of which the GICHD is an active member and Secretary, launched a “Q&A on emergency EORE for Ukraine” to provide guidance to mine action and broader humanitarian actors on the key risk education messages and possible delivery tools to help prevent explosive ordnance victims. While created to address the case of the Ukrainian conflict, the guide provides information that can be adapted to other emergency contexts.

Mr President,

The GICHD greatly welcomed that the Meeting of Experts of Protocol V dedicated part of its agenda to the issues of ammunition management and of connections between mine action and the SDGs, and we were honoured to deliver presentations on both.

Adequate ammunition management is indeed central to prevent the occurrence of ERW. In addition to the measures specified in the Technical Annex of this Protocol, the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines provide globally endorsed, practical guidance on ensuring that ammunition is managed safely and securely. Practical assistance in this regard is also

increasingly available through the work of mine action operators on the ground, as well as the Ammunition Management Advisory Team of the GICHD.

Finally, humanitarian demining, including the clearance, removal or destruction of ERW, is not just about diminishing the humanitarian impact of explosive remnants of war. It is also a crucial enabler of broader humanitarian, development and peace efforts, a role that should be consistently highlighted and pursued. Since 2017, jointly with UNDP, the GICHD has produced comprehensive analyses and case studies of the impact of mine action on sustainable development in the medium and long term, including in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, and Lao PDR. In addition, we have developed tools, including a training package, providing concrete guidelines on how these links can be operationalised and fully exploited in the context of national policies and practices both on mine action and on sustainable development.

These are two central areas of work of the GICHD and, in our view, thematic areas that this forum could usefully focus on more in the future to enhance its implementation and impact. The GICHD stands ready to support individual and collective efforts in this regard.

Thank you