



International Workshop on Preventive Technical Measures for Munitions

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Political Framework

- 2001 Review Conference of the CCW
 - Swiss Proposal on Submunitions
 - ICRC Proposal on Explosive Remnants of War
- 2001/2002 Discussion Mandate on Explosive Remnants of War
- 2003 Negotiations of a new protocol on ERW
- 2004 CCW Protocol V on ERW/Discussion Mandate



Thun Workshop (1)

- Organisation
 - Co-organised by the Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports and the German Federal Foreign Office
 - 86 participants from 42 countries, 3 UN and international organisations, 3 NGOs
- Structure
 - General exchange of views
 - Thematic presentations and practical demonstrations
 - Working groups (3)



Thun Workshop (2)

- Presentations
 - CCW and General Overview on the issue/types of munitions which cause ERW
 - Technical options to reduce the amount of ERW (single/double fuse)
 - Procurement/technology transfer/ammunition management
- Practical demonstrations
 - Exposition on explosive munitions, incl. submunitions
 - Reliability tests for submunitions with the spin-gun (Swiss canister ammunition for artillery rounds)

Thun Workshop (2)





Thun Workshop (3)

- Working Groups
 - WG 1. Challenges to the political process
 - WG 2. Challenges to technical efforts
 - WG 3. Challenges of balancing military needs and humanitarian concerns



Thun Workshop (4)

- WG 1. Challenges to the political process
 - Submunition as the most urgent type of munitions to deal with
 - Implementation of Prot V and 2004 ERW discussion mandate
 - Responsibility of the producer
 - Info exchange regarding the status of Prot V



Thun Workshop (5)

- WG 2. Challenges to technical efforts
 - Double fuse systems vs single fuse systems
 - Best practice measures (international standards)
 - incl non manufacturing factors
 - Reliability standards
 - improved efficiency >>> positive social and economic impact



Thun Workshop (6)

- WG 3. Challenges of balancing military needs and humanitarian concerns
 - Indirect fire weapons, e.g. Cluster munitions and mortar rounds give main concerns
 - Realistic testing is needed
 - Information exchange within military organisation
 - “good” targeting policy
 - Sufficient knowledge of international humanitarian law for all participants in a conflict



Thun Workshop (7)

- Chair's paper
 - Submunitions have a great military advantage (efficiency and flexibility) but can cause a high humanitarian danger
 - Number of states which are producing/stockpiling submunitions is increasing
 - Technical improvement to increase reliability
 - Technical information exchange
 - International standards
 - Cost implications: comparison of the absolute cost increase on one side and the possible benefits on the other



Conclusions/The way forward (1)

- Submunitions pose highest humanitarian risk
- Technical preventive measures as key element to increase reliability
- Back-up systems have merit and reduce dud rate
- Cost comparison between cost increase and possible benefits needed
- International cooperation and technical information exchange
- Instruction of IHL



Conclusions/The way forward (2)

- High reliability as key factor for a direct positive impact on the ground
- Assistance and cooperation/Information exchange
- Need for further discussions (new mandate for 2005)
- Further work in relation to Prot. V: International standards needed but not enough
- Political will



Questions?