Cooperation and assistance and Requests for assistance pursuant to Article 7

Geneva, 21 February 2011

Excellency,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Coordinator on Cooperation and assistance and on Requests for assistance pursuant to Article 7 of the CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War, in particular to consideration of these issues at the 2012 Meeting of Experts (25 to 27 April, Geneva).

The Fifth Conference on Protocol V decided to:

a) to continue the consideration of cooperation and assistance, and of requests for assistance, as a priority issue in the context of the Meetings of Experts and the Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V.

b) to give particular attention in 2012, without prejudice to the right of any participant to raise any issue for consideration, to the potential for cooperation among developing countries and among ERW-affected States, as well as to cooperation among providers of assistance.

c) to encourage High Contracting Parties, relevant international organizations and institutions which might be in a position to do so, to consider providing assistance in response to requests submitted under Article 7 of the Protocol, or in response to needs identified in other ways, including during the Meetings of Experts.

Permanent Representatives of the High Contracting Parties to CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War

Geneva
In accordance with the mandate for this year's Meeting of Experts, the session on cooperation and assistance will focus on:

- Updates from States with cooperation and assistance programmes and those States which have requested assistance;
- The potential for cooperation among developing and ERW affected States. I encourage all developing and ERW affected States to share their experiences of cooperating with countries in a similar position;
- Updates and new information from States and relevant organizations which are in a position to respond to requests for assistance; and
- Finally to encourage States which have submitted requests for assistance to continue to provide regular updates on the status of those requests.

Cooperation and assistance is crucial for the implementation of Protocol V. Therefore I look forward to a productive session on these important matters.

Should you require any further information on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me or the CCW Implementation Support Unit.

Yours sincerely,

Yevgen Lisuchenko

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