Dear Excellency,

I am honoured to serve as President-designate of the Seventh Conference for Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War.

A key instrument for increasing transparency and confidence that all States Parties are fulfilling their obligations under Protocol V is national reporting. I wish to take this opportunity to remind States Parties that the deadline for submitting national reports to the CCW Implementation Support Unit is 31 March 2013.

Last year 50 State Parties submitted annual national reports. I hope that this year we can improve both the quality and rate of national reporting.

As you may recall at the Sixth Conference, States Parties agreed to a new reporting template on victim assistance. Specifically States Parties agreed:

“...To amend national reporting template F (cooperation and assistance) by Form Fbis “Steps taken by States which have ERW victims to implement the relevant provisions of Article 8(2): Victim Assistance” as supported by the Meeting of Experts in 2012”.

The new reporting template is attached in the six languages of the United Nations.
I strongly encourage all States that have victims to complete as far as possible the new reporting template. This is an opportunity for affected States to outline their priorities, challenges and needs regarding the assistance that they provide to victims of explosive remnants of war. Such information is important for the officeholders, coordinators and CCW Implementation Support Unit in better understanding the progress being made by States Parties towards implementing Article 8(2) of the Protocol V and the Plan of Action on Victim Assistance and in assisting affected States in their efforts to translate their victim assistance obligations into measures on the ground.

If you have any questions concerning the new reporting template please feel free to contact the Coordinator on Victim Assistance, Mr. Fernando Guzman of Chile; Friend of the Coordinator, Ms. Caroline Wörgötter; or the CCW Implementation Support Unit.

Finally, I very much look forward to working with all delegations to advance the universalization and implementation of Protocol V.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Jan Knutsson
President-designate of the Seventh Conference for Protocol V