The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of ... to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to his note ODA/2-2009/CCW-MSP dated 9 January 2009 by which he had convened the 2009 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW), which will be held in Geneva on 12 and 13 November 2009.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations would like, in particular, to recall that the Third Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, held in Geneva from 7 to 17 November 2006, decided “to establish a Compliance mechanism applicable to the Convention” as contained in Annex II of the Final Declaration (CCW/CONF.III/11, Part II). This mechanism was further enhanced by the 2007 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties, held in Geneva from 7 to 13 November 2007 (CCW/MSP/2007/5, paragraphs 31-35).

Pursuant to the above decisions, the High Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide on an annual basis national reports on any of the following matters:

(a) Dissemination of information on the Convention and its annexed Protocols to their armed forces and to the civilian population;
(b) Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;
(c) Legislation related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols;
(d) Measures taken on technical co-operation and assistance; and
(e) Other relevant matters.

The recommended deadline for submission of the national reports was fixed at 1 October of each calendar year. Reporting Forms were adopted and recommended for use by the High Contracting Parties for submission of their national reports. These Reporting Forms are contained in CCW/MSP/2007/5, Annex VI, and are also available in all UN languages in user-friendly electronic form on the website of the CCW Compliance mechanism at www.unog.ch/CCW/Compliance.

Furthermore, pursuant to the Compliance decisions a Pool of Experts was established. Each High Contracting Party “may provide one expert per each of the annexed Protocols to the Convention, to be included in the pool. Any expert included in the pool shall be of acknowledged impartiality and recognized technical, legal or other appropriate competence”. A Registration Form for inclusion of national experts into the Pool of Experts was adopted, as contained in CCW/MSP/2007/5, Annex V,
and a database containing the names, nationalities and other relevant data of the experts included in the pool was established by the Secretary-General, as requested by the High Contracting Parties. The database is located at the CCW Compliance website. User-friendly electronic version of the Registration Form in all UN languages is also available at the CCW Compliance website.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations would also like to recall that pursuant to the decisions on the establishment of a CCW Compliance mechanism, the issue of the status of implementation of and compliance with the Convention and its Protocols was included in the Agenda of the annual Meetings of the High Contracting Parties.

Pursuant to the above-mentioned Compliance decisions, the Secretary-General has the honour to invite the High Contracting Parties to the Convention to provide their annual national reports on the implementation of the Convention and all its Protocols. As decided by the 2007 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties, the national reports have to be submitted to the CCW Secretariat at the latest by 1 October 2009. The national reports will be made available through the CCW Compliance website.

The High Contracting Parties to the Convention are also invited to provide the Secretary-General with the names, nationalities and other relevant data of their experts to be included in the Pool of Experts.

The High Contracting Parties to the Convention are kindly requested to provide their annual national reports, as well as the Registration Forms containing relevant data of their experts to be included into the Pool of Experts, to the following address:

CCW Secretariat
Office for Disarmament Affairs (Geneva Branch)
United Nations Office at Geneva
Palais des Nations, Office C-113.1
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Telephone: 41 22 917 34 41
Fax: 41 22 917 00 34
E-mail: ccw@unog.ch
Website: http://www.unog.ch/ccw

For further information with regard to the Compliance mechanism applicable to the Convention, the States are invited to contact the CCW Secretariat, Office for Disarmament Affairs (Geneva Branch), at the address above.

13 January 2009

S. B.