Mr. Coordinator,

The United Nations thanks you for your report, including the assessment made by the CCW Implementation Support Unit of reporting on Article 5, which refers to feasible precautions to be taken by High Contracting Parties in territories under their control that are affected by ERW.

Article 5 is an important provision of Protocol V and its effective implementation is crucial to ensure adequate protection of civilians from ERW.

Mr. Coordinator,

The United Nations takes this opportunity to encourage High Contracting Parties to report regularly on national implementation of Protocol V. Last year, the level of compliance with reporting requirements has significantly decreased from 65% to 52%. The United Nations encourages High Contracting Parties to reverse this negative trend for the sake of the credibility of Protocol V.

Thank you.

1 Belgium