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The Permanent Representatives of the High
Contracting Parties to the CCW Amended
Protocol II on Mines, Booby-Traps and other
Explosive Devices

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Geneva, 14.3.2011

Excellency,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Coordinator on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) of the Amended Protocol II on Mines, Booby-Traps and other Explosive Devices of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and with a view, in particular, to the consideration of this issue at the 2010 Meeting of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II (4 to 5 April 2011 in Geneva).

Last year, High Contracting Parties and experts engaged once more very substantially on this topic and agreed on four tracks for future work (CCW/AP.II/CONF.11/2):

- (a) Continue information exchange on IEDs, IED incidents, their prevention, as well as their relevance for the CCW framework, with a view to obtain a better understanding of how IED incidents occur and what their short-, mid- and long-term effects are;
- (b) Survey existing guidelines, best practices, and other recommendations with regard to their relevance for future work under Amended Protocol II and consider, in consultation with all States Parties, the added value of additional guidelines aimed at addressing the diversion or illicit use of materials which can be used for IEDs. Such work could *inter alia* add to existing work on the risks of certain materials and parts across the supply chain being used as IED components;
- (c) Consider the benefit of establishing a set of best practices and procedures to help ensure the protection of civilians, highlighting the responsibilities of each High Contracting Party or party to a conflict under Amended Protocol II;

(d) Continue discussions on victim assistance so that those providing assistance bear in mind the 2008 Plan of Action on Victim Assistance of Protocol V and the principles of age- and gender-sensitive medical care, rehabilitation, psychological support, and adequate assistance for social and economic inclusion in a non-discriminatory manner.

In light of the upcoming meeting, I encourage High Contracting Parties to actively contribute to one or several of these tracks in order to advance the Group's work. In view of your preparations, I am happy to update you on my preliminary plans for the session:

- presentations of **case studies from affected countries**: I have invited affected States and would encourage other States to make national presentations addressing subparagraph a) of last year's decision.
- a discussion of **IED-relevant existing guidelines, best practices, and other recommendations** aimed at addressing the diversion or illicit use of materials which can be used for IEDs, as stipulated in subparagraph b) of last year's decision. Based on a focused discussion of existing elements and approaches the Group could consider the added value of additional, CCW/IED-specific guidelines or best practices. I intend to make available shortly a compilation of possible sources for consideration during the meeting.
- **an expert panel discussion on preventive aspects**, where various technical approaches (explosive forensics, experiences with marking explosives) can be discussed.
- a continued discussion on **victim assistance**, bearing in mind the 2008 Plan of Action on Victim Assistance of Protocol V.

It is my hope that this session will once more highlight useful links to relevant implementation efforts in CCW Protocol V (i.e. Victim Assistance, Generic Preventive Measures, and Clearance). I intend to make arrangements with my fellow Protocol V Coordinators in order to allow cross-fertilization between the two respective protocols.

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

Yours sincerely,



Reto Wollenmann
CCW APII Coordinator on Improvised Explosive Devices