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CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW)

Proposal for prioritisation of CCW meetings in 2017

The Permanent Representatives
of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW
Signatory States and States not party
Geneva

7 April 2017

Excellency,

As made clear at the informal meeting on 31 March, there is a significant risk that insufficient contributions will be received and arrears paid to allow us to hold all the meetings agreed on at the Review Conference last December.

As promised then, I have consulted the Chairs on how we can prioritise those meetings, recognising that some meetings lower down the priority list may not be able to be convened for lack of available funds. Currently, there are insufficient funds even for the first meeting on the list to take place.

Using the criteria of prioritising meetings that (a) have decision making authority (b) engage the largest number of Parties and (c) allow for some expert consideration of each of the matters allocated expert meeting time at the Review Conference, I propose that we prioritise as follows:

1. Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, 22-24 November
2. Nineteenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, 21 November 2017
3. Eleventh Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, 20 November 2017

4. Group of Governmental Experts on LAWS, 21-25 August
5. Group of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, 29-30 August*
6. Meeting of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, 28-29 August*
7. Group of Governmental Experts on LAWS, 13-17 November

*As announced at the meeting on 31 March, the dates for these two meetings have been swapped to facilitate the agenda of the Chairs.

This means, for example, that we would need to have the money in hand for the agreed budget of meetings (1)-(5) 90 days in advance of the date of meeting (5) before meeting (5) could take place.

The silence procedure will be applied. If I do not hear back from any delegation through the e-mail address of the CCW Implementation Support Unit (ccw@unog.ch) by **Friday, 21 April 2017 at 12:00 noon Geneva time**, I will take it that all the High Contracting Parties agree to the prioritising of meetings and the change of dates, and an official announcement will be made to this effect thereafter.

Finally, as a matter of urgency, can I encourage all High Contracting Parties who have arrears from previous years to be paid or have yet to pay their contribution this year to please do so.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Matt Rowland

Dr Matthew Rowland
Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Conference on
Disarmament