Permanent Mission of Ireland
to the United Nations Office and
other International Organisations in Geneva

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)

Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)

Cooperation and assistance and Requests for assistance pursuant to Article 7

Geneva, 26 February 2010

Excellency,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Coordinator for Cooperation and assistance and Requests for assistance pursuant to Article 7 of CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War and with a view, in particular, to the consideration of these issues at the 2010 Meeting of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V (Geneva, 21 to 23 April 2010).

I wish, in the first place, to underline the importance of national reporting in ensuring that the Meeting of Experts has an adequate amount of accurate information before it to allow a thorough and informed consideration of the issues, and to recall, in this context, that the deadline for the submission of annual reports is 31 March. I encourage your authorities to pay particular attention to forms E and F of the reporting format, which relate respectively to Articles 7 and 8 of the Protocol. It is worth pointing out, in particular, that form E is relevant not only to States affected by ERW, but also to High Contracting Parties which have provided assistance to such States. The “Guide to National Reporting under CCW Protocol V”, approved by the Third Conference of the High Contracting Parties in November 2009, may be of assistance when completing national reports.

I would also take this opportunity to recall that, at the time of writing, three States have submitted requests for assistance pursuant to Article 7. These requests are available on the Protocol V website (www.unog.ch/ccw/ProtocolV) under the heading “ERW

The Permanent Representatives of
the High Contracting Parties
to CCW Protocol V
on Explosive Remnants of War
Geneva
database”. In accordance with the provisions of Article 7 of the Protocol, I wish to encourage all High Contracting Parties in a position to do so to consider providing assistance in response to these requests. The provision of assistance in response to requests is an important means of operationalising the relevant provisions of the Protocol.

In the same vein, I would like to encourage States affected by Explosive Remnants of War to consider submitting requests for assistance, or to make use of other possibilities for bringing their needs to the attention of other High Contracting Parties, such as by providing details in their national reports or at the Meetings of Experts.

In conclusion, I invite all High Contracting Parties which have either provided or received assistance with regard to Explosive Remnants of War to consider providing information at the Meeting of Experts on their experiences, both positive and negative. Such exchange of information can be of considerable benefit for the future work on implementation of the Protocol, both at the national level and internationally.

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

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
James C. O'Shea

Coordinator on Cooperation and assistance and on Requests for assistance pursuant to Article 7