Excellency,

In our capacities as Coordinator and Co-Coordinator on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) of the informal Group of Experts under Amended Protocol II (APII) to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), we are writing to you in the context of preparations for the next meeting of the Group (Geneva, 9 – 10 April 2015).

With reference to our letter dated 30 January 2015, you will recall that last November the Conference of the High Contracting Parties decided that the Group of Experts should consider a one-time questionnaire, voluntary in nature, on national counter-IED frameworks, with a view to enhancing international cooperation and assistance and strengthening national capacities of High Contracting Parties, including through the establishment of a network of national points of contact.

This questionnaire, if agreed by consensus by the Group of Experts, will be circulated after the meeting with a view to encourage responses from delegations before the next Conference of the High Contracting Parties (November 2015).

The CCW Implementation Support Unit (ISU) will make a compilation of the answers to be circulated to APII States Parties and agreed relevant international organizations only.

In our letter of January 30th, we informed you about our intention to organize a half-a-day session to discuss general issues related to such a questionnaire and to consider its possible wording. Against this background, you will find attached a preliminary draft, which will be the basis for our work. It is circulated in advance of the meeting of the Group of Experts for your consideration.

We strongly encourage all delegations to prepare questions, comments and proposals, and to take an active participation in this work.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact either ourselves or the ISU at any time.

Yours sincerely,

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DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Risk assessment

Q1/ Does your country perform a risk assessment as to the IED threat? If yes, how do you assess it (low/medium/high)?

2. Legal framework

The aim of this section is to help High Contracting Parties to clarify their own legal framework with regards to C-IED and identify possible areas of cooperation.

a) Curbing the manufacture of IEDs

Q2/ Does your domestic law or any other administrative instruments regulate the retention and use of explosives, detonators or chemical precursors that might be used for the manufacture of IEDs?

For instance:

Q2.1/ Does your country have particular legislation or regulation with regards to the purchase, retention or use of chemical precursors that might be used for the purpose of manufacturing Home Made Explosives (HME), e.g. list of concerned chemical substances and administrative system to trace and control their use? If yes, could you describe it?

Q2.2/ Does your country have particular legislation or regulation with regards to the purchase, retention or use of civilian explosives and/or detonators? If yes, could you describe it?

Q2.3/ Does your country have particular legislation or regulation in order to reduce possibilities for armed groups to access military explosives, notably in securing ammunitions storage facilities and transportation? If yes, could you describe it?

Q3/ Would your country agree to share experience in elaborating and implementing those legislations or regulations, and would your country be open for international cooperation in those fields and how?

Q4/ Does your country participate in customs cooperation to improve border controls and limit flows that feed the chain of IED manufacturing (persons and materials)? In particular does your country participate in the “Global Shield” program of the World Customs Organization (WCO)?

Q5/ Does your country have any means to track the supply chain of IED precursor materials (e.g. chemicals used to construct explosives, detonator cords, electronic activation devices, fireworks, commercial explosives, etc.) in order to reduce the illicit use of such materials? If so, how is it done, and if not, would your country consider such measures?

b) Prosecuting the use of IEDs

Q6/ Does your criminal law specifically condemn the use of IEDs, and if so, how?
Q7/ Is your country involved in judicial cooperation with regard to C-IED prosecution, at a regional or international level, and if so, how?

Q8/ Does your country cooperate with INTERPOL in C-IED?

3. **Counter-IED (C-IED) organization**

The aim of this section is to help High Contracting Parties to examine their own organization and identify possible cooperation.

Q9/ Do you have a national authority that coordinates or leads C-IED efforts?

Q10/ Without entering into sensitive information, could you describe in a nutshell – and if possible with a general organizational diagram – the different authorities, units or organs involved in C-IED (including, where possible and for instance, headquarters or authorities, units specialized in research, neutralization or destruction of IEDs, technical expertise centers, training centers, etc.), in the police as well as in the armed forces?

Q11/ Do these authorities, units or organs consult or coordinate:
- With other national ministries or administrations such as Justice, Industry, Finance, Health or Education?
- With other international authorities, agencies, units or organs?

Q12/ What are the fields where you think bilateral or multilateral cooperation would be valuable?

Q13/ Does your country have a global or a specific military or security doctrine developed for C-IED, if so, can these be made available on request?

Q14/ Which authority or organization is your national Point of Contact (PoC) for international cooperation in C-IED? (Please provide the name and contact details of this authority, including the address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail).

4. **Expertise and capabilities open for cooperation**

The aim of this section is to help to draw a map of the existing capabilities open for cooperation. It is not to enter into classified information on national capacities that the High Contracting Parties would not intend to share, but to identify particular expertise that might be interesting for bilateral or multilateral cooperation, upon agreement.

Q15/ Has your country developed specialized centers for technical and biometric analysis, leading/coordinating C-IED or training where international cooperation would be possible; if so, what is it called and how to contact them?

Q16/ Does your country participate in bilateral, regional or multilateral C-IED efforts, such as training activities, for instance? If yes, please specify those types of cooperation.

Q17/ Has your country developed specific C-IED tools that might be open for cooperation, such as a database or specific equipment (e.g. jamming systems, robots for neutralization, armored equipment for deminers, mobile laboratories, etc.)?
5. Information sharing

The aim of this section is to help High Contracting Parties to identify possible cooperation in the field of information sharing.

Q18/ Does your country organizes or participates in meetings, workshops, seminars, conferences or training on C-IEDs? If yes, what are they called and are they open for international participation?

Q19/ Does your country participate in bilateral or multilateral efforts to share information on IED construction and use such as incidences, means of construction of IEDs, biometrics, and other such areas? If not, would your country consider participating in such sharing mechanisms?