Geneva, 28 March 2019

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)
Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices
as amended on 3 May 1996 (Amended Protocol II)

Excellency,

1. It is my great honor to serve as the President-designate of the Twenty First Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II. My primary goal is to prepare the 21st Annual Conference in the most transparent and inclusive manner. This letter serves this purpose by informing and explaining you how I intend to discharge my mandate.

2. I plan to convey the informal preparatory meeting on 31 May. During this meeting you will be informed on the proposed structure of the meeting of the Group of Experts as well as on the Annual Conference of the AP II High Contracting Parties. It will create an opportunity to discuss a way of preparations to the aforementioned events, including on the issue of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED). There will be also possibility to address any other matters relevant to the APII.

3. The meeting of Group of Experts will be held on 22 August. It will provide opportunity to review the operation and status of the Protocol, consider matters arising from reports by High Contracting parties according to Article 13 (4) of Amended Protocol II, as well as on development of technologies to protect civilians against the indiscriminate effects of mines. The issue of Improvised Explosive Devices will be reviewed under the overall responsibility of the Coordinator, Colonel Pascal Levant of France with the assistance of Co-Coordinator, Ms. Diana Esperanza Castillo Castro of Colombia. The High Contracting Parties will also benefit from the presentations on substance and from additional information by relevant experts, depending on the time available.
4. The 21st Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II to the CCW is planned to take place on 12 November 2019. The Presidency will report on the work of Group of Experts. It will also inform on proposals for the work of APII in 2020. The President will seek its adoption ad referendum – subject to the agreement of the plenary during the overall adoption of the Conference’s final document.

5. Colonel Pascal Levant and Ms. Diana Esperanza Castillo Castro will report on the work of the Group of Experts on the issue of IED, pursuant to the mandate received at the 20th Annual Conference of 2018. The mandate on IED for the work in 2020, which will be reflected in the Coordinator’s Report as a proposal to the High Contracting Parties, will be tabled for its adoption ad referendum by the President.

6. Following the intention of my predecessor, Ambassador Yan Hwang of France, President of the 20th Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II and according to the mandate of the President-designate given by the High Contracting Parties at the APII Annual Conference in 2018 (paragraph 31 of its Final Document) I intend to select, if there is no objection, Article 11 Technological cooperation and assistance and Article 14 Compliance to be addressed during the Annual Conference. It is without prejudice to a comprehensive and balanced discussion on the Amended Protocol II and the Convention.

7. Please be informed that the Presidency is planning to prepare, in its national capacity, a presentation on Article 14 Compliance to share the Polish experience on the implementation of the Amended Protocol II (tbc). We also expect presentations by other High Contracting Parties on Article 11 Technological cooperation and assistance (tbc). I invite and encourage all Delegations to share, on a voluntary basis, their experiences pertaining to the implementation of the respective provisions of the Amended Protocol II.

8. In order to facilitate our discussion during the Annual Conference I will provide you, in advance, with the President’s non-paper containing a set of questions and reflections on the main challenges of the APII.