The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of … to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the 1980 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) and its Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V).

The Secretary-General would like to recall that pursuant to Article 10 of Protocol V and the relevant decision by the First Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Protocol (Geneva, 5 November 2007), as contained in paragraph 42 of its Final Document (CCW/P.V/CONF/2007/1), annual conferences of High Contracting Parties to the Protocol shall be held for the purpose of consultations and cooperation on all issues related to the operation of the Protocol. Furthermore, the First Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V decided to establish a mechanism for consultation and cooperation consisting of informal Meetings of experts, chaired by Coordinators, and that the work of the meetings of experts shall be considered by the Conferences of the High Contracting Parties, as contained in paragraphs 38 and 42 of its Final Document.

Pursuant to the above decisions, the Secretary-General has the honour to convene the Third Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War and to invite all States which have notified the Depositary of their consent to be bound by Protocol V to participate in it. The Secretary-General also has the honour to invite States not parties to Protocol V to participate in the Conference as Observers.

In this regard, the Secretary-General would like to recall that the 2008 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW (Geneva, 13 and 14 November 2008) decided to hold the Third Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on 9 and 10 November 2009 at Geneva. Pursuant to the decision of the Second Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, the 2009 Meeting of experts shall take place from 22 to 24 April 2009 at Geneva, as contained in paragraph 45 of CCW/P.V/CONF/2008/11.
The Secretary-General takes this opportunity to recall that in accordance with Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure, adopted by the First Conference in 2007, as contained in Annex II of document CCW/P.V/CONF/2007/1 “[t]he credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of the Conference, if possible not later than 24 hours after the opening of the Conference. […] The credentials shall be issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs”. Credentials shall be submitted to the CCW Secretariat at the address indicated below.

The Secretary-General wishes to remind His/Her Excellency that, in accordance with Article 10 (3) of Protocol V, “[t]he costs of the Conference of High Contracting Parties shall be borne by the High Contracting Parties and States not parties participating in the Conference, in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessment adjusted appropriately”.

For further information with regard to the Third Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, the States are invited to contact:

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15 January 2009

S. B.