The Permanent Representatives of the High Contracting Parties to CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War Geneva

Excellency,

You will recall that the Third Conference of the High Contracting Parties last year decided that adequate time should be devoted to addressing the important issue of victim assistance in the context of the Meetings of Experts and the Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V.

In particular, the coordinator on victim assistance will report to the Fourth Conference of the High Contracting Parties on the state of implementation of Article 8 (2). The coordinator shall also make suggestions on how to facilitate the matching of needs and resources.

In order to gain a better understanding of the challenges High Contracting Parties to Protocol V are faced with, we would invite you to return the attached questionnaire on victim assistance, as annexed to CCW/IP.v/Conf/2008/2. A broad participation and early submission, if possible before 22 March 2010, would greatly assist us in assessing the scale of the task and in preparing this year's meetings. Your input, whether you are an affected State and/or a State contributing to victim assistance programs, is crucial to our common task. We stand ready for any clarifications regarding the questionnaire.

Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss our forthcoming work on victim assistance under Protocol V and we look forward to our fruitful cooperation this year in advancing our common goals within Protocol V.

Yours sincerely,

Stephanie Karner
Coordinator on Victim Assistance Pursuant to Article 8 (2) of CCW Protocol V

Danijela Žunec Brandt
Friend of the Coordinator Pursuant to Article 8 (2) of CCW Protocol V
Annex I

QUESTIONNAIRE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE UNDER PROTOCOL V

I. Introduction

1. Under Article 8 paragraph 2 of Protocol V each High Contracting Party in a position to do so shall provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of ERW-victims.

2. In order to get a better view on the situations as regards victim assistance in various States, States Parties and observers are encouraged to reply to the following questions either in writing before the July meeting on Protocol V or orally during that meeting itself. The questions aim to give an overview of the magnitude of the problem in the various States as well as what States have done to improve the situation of ERW-victims. Some of the questions also relate to assistance and cooperation activities of various States in the field of victim assistance.

3. Written responses should be forwarded electronically to ccw@unog.ch,¹ or in hard copy to the following address: CCW Secretariat, Palais des Nations, office C-113.1, UNOG, Avenue de la Paix 8-14, 1211 Geneva 10.

II. Questions

(1) Crosscutting questions

(i) What is the estimated number of ERW survivors and other victims in your country? How does this figure relate to the overall population?

(ii) Does your country receive foreign funding for mine and ERW action, and if so how much of it is spent for victim assistance activities?

(iii) Is there a focal point in the government for victim assistance and what are the accountability measures?

(2) Medical care

(i) Is emergency and ongoing medical care, including hospitals that can treat ERW related injuries, available in ERW affected areas. Is emergency transportation available? How are these services made available to ERW victims?

(ii) Are prosthetic/orthotic services available, accessible and affordable for ERW victims? How are these services made available to ERW victims and for which duration?

¹ An electronic version of the questions is available at the CCW Protocol V Meeting of Experts webpage at: http://www.unog.ch/disarmament.
(3) **Rehabilitation**

(i) Are rehabilitation centers available, accessible and affordable to ERW victims, in ERW affected areas, including in the rural areas? Is transportation ensured?

(ii) Are rehabilitation services provided comprehensive and based on individual needs assessment, as well as long-term?

(4) **Economic reintegration**

(i) What programs exist for income generation, including employment, micro-enterprise support, affirmative action programs, vocational trainings, and other relevant areas, for persons with disabilities in general and ERW victims specifically?

(ii) What, if any, incentives are provided by the state to increase employment of ERW victims and persons with disabilities generally, including quotas, tax incentives, and does the state employ ERW victims and/or persons with disabilities, and how many?

(5) **Laws and policies**

(i) Is there a national plan on victim assistance? How is coordination among relevant ministries, institutions and other relevant stakeholders carried out? Were ERW victims consulted?

(ii) Is there a national plan on people with disabilities? Were people with disabilities consulted?

(iii) Is there a comprehensive disability law, and if not, what laws exist that address relevant areas of victim assistance?

(iv) If possible, please attach texts of relevant legislation.

(6) **International Cooperation and Assistance**

Does your country support international cooperation and assistance activities relating to victim assistance? If so, in which areas of victim assistance? What type of projects? If possible, please specify funding and funding requirements?