26 April 2012

To: The Permanent Missions to the United Nations of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Re: Convention on Cluster Munitions/ Article 7 annual reporting

Your Excellency,

Your State is one of the 71 States that have adhered to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (hereafter referred to as “the Convention”). According to Article 7 paragraph 2 of the Convention, each State Party is required to submit no later than 30 April of each year, an annual transparency report, covering the last calendar year (from the 1st of January to the 31st of December), and containing updated information on measures taken to implement the Convention.

In the Vientiane Action Plan 2010-2014, the States Parties agreed to

- “Fulfil their obligations to annually update Article 7, and where relevant Article 3, paragraph 8, transparency reports and maximize reporting as a tool to assist and cooperate in implementation, particularly in cases where States Parties must take action to destroy stockpiled cluster munitions, clear cluster munitions remnants, assist victims or take legal and other measures referred to in Article 9”, Action 59;
- To the extent possible, take full advantage of the flexibility of the reporting process, to provide information on matters not specifically required but which may assist in the implementation process and in resource mobilization”, Action 60

In September 2012, States Parties to the Convention highlighted in Beirut the continued importance of reporting and transparency obligations in the fulfilment of the Convention’s obligations

Should you have any questions about Article 7 reporting, please feel free to contact Major Lode Dewaegheneire (Tel 0032475865805 + mail lode.dewaegheneire@mil.be). Finally, please note that reports submitted in accordance with Article 7 should be forwarded to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in care of the following address: CCM Article 7 Officer, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (Geneva Branch), Palais des Nations, room C-113.1, Avenue de la Paix 8-14, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Fax: 41-22-917-0034, Email: ccm@unog.ch

In addition, wherever possible reports should be submitted electronically in at least one of the official languages of the Convention.

Please accept, your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration,

Werner Bauwens
Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation
Federal Public Service for Foreign Affairs of Belgium
Coordinator of the Article 7 Contact Group

Enc.: Article 7 reporting format