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REFERENCE: ODA/63-2013/ENMOD

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representatives of Member States to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the 1976 Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques.

The Secretary-General would like to recall that pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention, as well as the relevant decision by the Second Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention (September 1992, Geneva, Switzerland), the Depositary was requested to solicit the views of all States Parties on the convening of a Third Review Conference. The Secretary-General would also like to recall that in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article VIII, “if one third or ten of the States Parties, whichever number is less, respond affirmatively, the Depositary shall take immediate steps to convene the conference”.

Against this background, the Secretary-General by Note Verbale ODA/32-2013/ENMOD of 20 March 2013 invited the States Parties to express their views on the convening of the Third Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention.

The Secretary-General has the honour to advise that the number of positive replies received to his aforementioned Note Verbale does not meet the minimum number required for affirmative responses. Consequently, the conditions set out in paragraph 3 of Article VIII of the Convention for convening the next Review Conference have not been met.

The Secretary-General would like to reaffirm his determination to assist the States Parties to the Convention with a view to ensuring that its purposes and provisions for eliminating the dangers of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques are being realized.

The Secretary-General avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Representatives of Member States to the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration.

27 January 2014

T. C. H.