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CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW)

Scheduling of meetings, assessed contributions and CCW compliance reporting

The Permanent Representatives
of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW
Signatory States and States not party
Geneva

1 March 2017

Excellency,

As the Chairperson-elect of the 2017 CCW Meeting of High Contracting Parties, I am writing to you concerning the timing of this year's meetings, the assessed contributions and CCW compliance reporting.

Scheduling of meetings in 2017

At the 2016 Fifth CCW Review Conference, High Contracting Parties agreed in "Decision 1" of the Final document (CCW/CONF.V/10), that the meetings of experts scheduled for April 2017 will be held at this time, provided that all of the financial and budgetary conditions are met by 1 March 2017.

I have been notified by the United Nations that there are currently insufficient funds to go ahead with holding the meetings on Amended Protocol II, Protocol V and lethal autonomous weapons (LAWS) in April 2017. Instead, and as agreed at the Fifth Review Conference, these meetings will be held on the agreed fall back dates as follows:

- Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems from 21 to 25 August 2017;
- Group of Experts on Amended Protocol II on 28 and 29 August 2017;
- Meeting of Experts on Protocol V on 29 and 30 August 2017.

Again, these meetings will only take place if there is sufficient funding in good time ahead of these dates.

Financial issues: outstanding arrears and assessed contributions

You are kindly reminded that at the Fifth Review Conference, it was agreed that:

“High Contracting Parties and States not parties participating in the meetings of the Convention and its annexed Protocols declare their determination to ensure full compliance with all financial obligations under the Convention and its annexed Protocols [...]”

Any outstanding arrears and the 2017 assessed contributions for the CCW must be received as soon as possible in order to ensure the continuity of the CCW Implementation Support Unit (ISU), particularly its staff members. Currently the funding available will only allow the ISU staff to have their contracts extended until the end of April 2017.

CCW compliance reporting

Finally, as the CCW Chairperson-elect, one of my responsibilities is to encourage higher rates of reporting under the CCW Compliance Mechanism. This is not the same as reporting under Amended Protocol II or Protocol V. The CCW compliance reporting requires High Contracting Parties to submit information, for example, on the implementation of the CCW and its Protocols in national legislation, military manuals and training exercises. These are basic requirements for the effective implementation of the CCW and its Protocols. Further information on CCW compliance reporting can be found on the CCW website and obtained from the ISU.

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

Matt Rowland

Dr Matthew Rowland
Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament