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)

Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)

Cooperation and assistance and Requests for assistance pursuant to Article 7

Geneva, 5 February 2013

Excellency,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Coordinator on Cooperation and assistance and requests for assistance pursuant to Article 7 of the CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War, in particular to consideration of these issues at the 2013 Meeting of Experts, which will be held from 10 to 12 April in Geneva.

The 2012 Sixth Conference on Protocol V decided that the consideration of cooperation and assistance, and of requests for assistance, which are crucial for the operation of the this international instrument, should remain as one of the priorities in the context of the Meetings of Experts and Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V.

Under the respective mandate of this year's Meeting of Experts the session on cooperation and assistance will continue the examination of updates from the States which have already requested assistance and are listed on the Protocol V website (www.unog.ch/ccw/ProtocolV) under the heading “ERW database”.

The High Contracting Parties which have not submitted a formal request for assistance could consider using other possibilities to bring their needs to the attention of other High Contracting Parties, such as by providing details in their national reports or at the Meetings of Experts. I hope that they will avail of this opportunity at this meeting.

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

Geneva
I also call on High Contracting Parties, relevant international organizations and institutions which are engaged in providing assistance in response to requests submitted under Article 7 of the Protocol, or in response to needs identified in other ways, including during the Meetings of Experts, to share their experiences and plans for the current year.

During this year’s Meeting of Experts we will also continue to utilise the small group meeting format for the ERW-affected countries and the donor States as recommended by the Sixth Conference on Protocol V. This meeting will have to discuss in detail the priorities and challenges in the area of cooperation and assistance, the existence of the national plans in place for clearance and victim assistance, that could constitute a deciding factor in favor of the donor’s decision to grant international assistance, and what could be done to enhance these processes under Protocol V.

At the end I would like also to remind you about the deadline for national reporting under the CCW Protocol V which is March 31, 2013 and to underline its importance in ensuring that the Meeting of Experts has an adequate amount of accurate and updated information before it to allow a thorough and informed consideration of these issues. I encourage your competent authorities to pay attention to forms E and F of the reporting format, which relate respectively to Articles 7 and 8 of the Protocol. It is worth pointing out, in particular, that form E is relevant not only to States affected by ERW, but also to High Contracting Parties which have provided assistance to such States as it was foreseen by the CCW Protocol V Sixth Conference under item 33 (e) of its Final Report.

Should you require any further information on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me or the CCW Implementation Support Unit.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Yevgen Lisuchenko

Coordinator on Cooperation and assistance
and on Requests for assistance pursuant to Article 7