Thank you very much Mr. Coordinator.

I would like to begin by explaining that this year we have had difficulty keeping up with the posting of all national reports onto the CCW website. This has been due to a high number of reports being submitted after the deadline of 31 March. We are currently in the process of catching-up and all national reports we have received should be posted on the website by the end of this month.

A point that has already been made is that we are conscious of the fact that national reporting does place a considerable burden on States, especially for small States. If you require assistance with national reporting please feel free to contact the CCW Implementation Support Unit. We will be most happy to help.

I would also like to congratulate Albania, Chile and Cuba on the submission this year of their first national reports. These three States have provided some excellent information in different parts of their respective reports.

In support of the recommendation to “consider how to encourage High Contracting Parties to report on their obligations relating them clearly as required with the national reporting form”, we had prepared a short paper titled “Making the most of national reporting”.

The paper does not address all of the articles of Protocol V or all of the forms of the national reporting template. Instead, we focused on key issues where High Contracting Parties may wish to give some further consideration to the information that they are providing.

On Article 3, which is addressed in Form A, there has been some excellent reporting provided by affected States. Examples are Albania, Belarus, Croatia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Ukraine.

Protocol V establishes a framework for preventing humanitarian harm from ERW in the future. With this in mind and turning to the reporting under Article 3, it is useful for potential users of explosive ordnance to provide information on what they would do if they were to find themselves in a situation of armed conflict. For example, which part of a State’s operation or administration would be responsible for deploying resources for a clearance operation? What resources would be available? And would clearance teams be included in the deployment of armed forces? By demonstrating your government’s preparedness to implement Article 3 and other provisions of Protocol V, there can be increased confidence that in post-conflict situations the Protocol’s obligations will be carried out effectively.

Article 4 of Protocol V is going to be addressed later today under the Friend of the Coordinator, Colonel Gerfried Elias, and therefore I will not go into detail on this matter. Article 4 requires that High Contracting Parties record the use or abandonment of explosive ordnance during an armed conflict and for that information to be stored. After the cessation of active hostilities the information recorded is to be made available to the party or parties in control of the affected areas. Even if your
country is not currently engaged in a conflict, it is important that in Reporting Form B States set out whether they have procedures in place to record the use or abandonment of explosive ordnance during an armed conflict.

In the paper, we addressed Articles 7 and 8, which are set out in Forms E and F respectively. As the reporting under these two articles is an issue for this session, I will not discuss these matters now.

Reporting on Article 9 – generic preventive measures is found in Forum G. A point made yesterday by the Coordinator, Brigadier General Mario Amadei, was the importance of setting out how generic preventive measures are implemented in your country and not to simply state that they are implemented. For example, whether the measures are included in guidelines, regulations or legislation is essential information for gauging the progress made by States on implementation in this area.

Finally, Article 11 requires High Contracting Parties to ensure their “armed forces and relevant agencies or departments issue appropriate instructions and operating procedures and that its personnel receive training consistent with the relevant provisions of the Protocol”. An issue under Form H, which addresses reporting on Article 11, is that some States only provide information concerning training courses they are conducting on the clearance and destruction of ERW. However, Article 11 requires that training and instruction be provided on the relevant provisions of Protocol V. For example, if your armed forces are potential users of explosive ordnance then they need to be provided with instructions and training on Articles 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9.

Thank you once again Mr. Coordinator. And let me reiterate that the CCW Implementation Support Unit is available any time to answer questions or provide assistance on national reporting.