Brussels, 8 March 2013

Excellency,

I write you in my capacity as Coordinator on National Reporting under CCW Protocol V and with respect to the upcoming Meeting of Experts (10 to 12 April 2013, Geneva).

The Sixth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the protocol decided:

(a) All High Contracting Parties and observer States are encouraged to submit national reports;
(b) High Contracting Parties are encouraged to use the Guide to National Reporting which was adopted by the Fourth Conference;
(c) The meeting of Experts in 2013 to continue its examination of the reporting forms and the Guide to National Reporting and in particular to examine the potential overlap between Forms E and F;
(d) The Coordinator on National Reporting with the assistance of the CCW Implementation Support Unit to consider how to encourage High Contracting Parties to report on their obligations relating them clearly as required with the national reporting.

In accordance with decision (a) and (b), all high Contracting Parties and observer States are encouraged to submit national reports. The submission date is 31 March. The use of the Guide to National Reporting is also strongly recommended. This Guide can be downloaded on the www.unog.ch website under Disarmament/CCW Prot V/National Reporting and is a very useful tool for clear and accurate reporting on the obligations set out in the Protocol.

Referring to the mandate for this year’s Meeting of Experts:

(a) I would like to engage discussions on the examination of the reporting forms and, more particularly, on the potential overlap between Forms E and F. As you will be aware, Form E addresses Article 7 on existing ERW (that is ERW which existed before the entry into force of Protocol V on 12 November 2006). It provides an opportunity for affected States to set their challenges and needs and for donor States to record the assistance they are providing on this specific issue. Whereas Form F on Article 8 allows States to record the different types of assistance and overall amount of resources they are contributing to dealing with the problems posed by ERW. Do States find the difference between Forms E and F confusing or unnecessary? Is it necessary for reporting purposes to distinguish between Articles 7 and 8?
(b) I invite delegations to share their experiences in using the Guide to National Reporting and, if appropriate, to suggest improvements to make this instrument even more accurate.

(c) With the assistance of the CCW Implementation Support Unit and in order to encourage the High Contracting Parties to report on their obligations relating them as clearly as required with the national reporting form, I have the intention to highlight the importance of reporting within the different thematic sessions. For the Meeting of Experts 2013, the Coordinator on Clearance and Article 4 accepted to plan a presentation on reporting on Clearance and Article 4 during his session.

(d) I also intend to have bilateral meetings with those High Contracting Parties which have not submitted reports and to discuss possible options for assisting them in fulfilling this task.

National reporting is crucial for creating transparency and building confidence in the implementation of Protocol V. I look forward to your delegation’s participation in the discussion on national reporting. If you have any questions please contact me or the CCW Implementation Support Unit.

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

Coordinator on National Reporting

Lode Dewaegheneire

Major Aviator

(lode.dewaegheneire@mil.be)