Excellency,

I am writing to you in my capacity as President-designate of the Sixteenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). The purpose of this letter is to set out the work programme for the upcoming Amended Protocol II Group of Experts meeting, which will take place on 1 and 2 April 2014 in the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Universalization

As President-designate I will open the meeting and outline the programme of work. I will also provide an update on universalization efforts. Efforts to enhance greater adherence to the Protocol continues to be a fundamental obligation of the High Contracting Parties. In this regard, any High Contracting Party and interested organizations may wish to brief us on their efforts to promote the universalization of this Protocol at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. The States not yet party may wish to share information on the steps they have undertaken to accede to Amended Protocol II.

Operation and status of the Protocol

The work on reviewing the operation and status of the Protocol, consider matters arising from reports by High Contracting Parties according to Article 13 (4) of Amended Protocol II; as well as the development of technologies to protect civilians against indiscriminate effects of mines, will be led by the Coordinator, Mr. David Puzstai of Hungary.

The main focus of the work under this topic is on national reporting. All High Contracting Parties are encouraged to submit their national annual reports by the deadline of 31 March 2014. High Contracting Parties which require assistance on this matter are welcome to get in touch with the Coordinator or the Implementation Support Unit.

The Coordinator will provide a brief analysis of Form D of the national annual reports on “Legislation related to this Protocol”. All High Contracting Parties that have never provided information under this form are encouraged to do so during the session. Furthermore, the “Guide to reporting”, specifically on how to submit information under Form D, will be considered.
Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)

The work on IEDs will be led by the Coordinator, Ms. Namdi Payne of Australia, and the Co-Coordinator, Capt. (Navy) Erwan Roche of France. As noted in their previous communication to all High Contracting Parties through their letters dated 29 January and 6 March, the discussion on IEDs will be focusing on information exchange; developing best practices, with a special focus on databases; reducing the risk of IED incidents; cooperation and assistance; and victim assistance.

Programme of Work

The programme of work for the Group of Experts is attached to this letter.

I look forward to working with you and to the involvement of all delegations at the meeting of the Group of Experts. If you require further information about the preparation for this meeting, please do not hesitate to contact either the delegation of Finland, the Coordinators or the CCW Implementation Support Unit.

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

The President-designate of the Sixteenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to CCW Amended Protocol II

Päivi Kairamo
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Finland
CCW Amended Protocol II Group of Experts (Geneva, 1 – 2 April 2014)

Programme of Work

Tuesday, 1 April
10.00 – 13.00
• Opening
• Universalization
• Operation and status of the Protocol
• Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs):
  o Introduction
  o Information exchange

15.00 – 18.00
• IEDs (cont’d)
  o Information exchange (cont’d)
  o Best practices: Possible database for information exchange
    – Presentation of existing national database as an example
    – Three break-out groups (Room XIX, XXIV, XXV)

Wednesday, 2 April
10.00 – 13.00
• IEDs (cont’d):
  o Best practices: Reducing risk
    – Presentations by an expert panel
    – Three break-out groups (Room XIX, XXIV, XXV)

15.00 – 18.00
• IEDs (cont’d):
  o Best practices: International cooperation and assistance
  o Victim assistance
  o The way forward
  o Conclusions
• Wrap-up by the President-designate
• Closing of the meeting