N° Genf-ÖV/POL/253/2011
Geneva, 24 March 2011

Excellency,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Coordinator for Victim Assistance pursuant to Article 8 (2) of CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War. In preparation of the 2011 Meeting of Experts of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V from 6 to 8 April 2011, I would like to highlight the following issues for your consideration:

As in previous years, the expert discussion on Victim Assistance will provide an opportunity to discuss national implementation of the Plan of Action on Victim Assistance, to inform about existing efforts as well as to highlight remaining challenges. I would like to use this opportunity to invite States to share their national experience with us, whether they are themselves affected or providing assistance to ERW-affected States. As many High Contracting Parties have already done so in the past, I would encourage you to provide updates and to inform about recent developments in the realm of Victim Assistance. It is my hope that this discussion will be further invigorated by a panel discussion with practitioners from the ground, which I have planned for this session.

In accordance with the 2010 Fourth Conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, the Meeting of Experts will furthermore examine the issue of reporting as well as the relevance of the Victim Assistance Action Plan for the wider CCW community. As Coordinator, I encourage High Contracting Parties to actively contribute to this debate, in order to advance our work.

In conclusion, please do not hesitate to contact me under the following address: stephanie.karner@bmeia.gv.at or the CCW Implementation Support Unit, should you require any additional information. I look forward to a lively discussion with you on this vital subject of Victim Assistance.

Yours respectfully,

Stephanie Karner
Coordinator on Victim Assistance
CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War

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