Excellency,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Coordinator on Generic Preventive Measures, pursuant to Article 9 and the Technical Annex (Part 3) of CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War and with a view, in particular, to the consideration of these issues at the 2011 Meeting of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to the Protocol (Geneva, 6 to 8 April 2011).

I wish, in the first place, to recall that these preventive measures address especially the issues of manufacturing, storage, transportation, packaging, stockpiling, testing, training etc. and that it is of paramount importance to prevent the occurrence of dangers.

Last year, the Fourth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to CCW Protocol V decided:

(a) To adopt the Guide for the implementation of Part 3 of the Technical Annex, the text of which is reproduced in document CCW/P.V/CONF/2010/6/Add.1, and to recommend that it be implemented in the national systems of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V as a best practice;

(b) To continue the practice of addressing one specific technical issue directly related to the implementation of Article 9 and Part 3 of the Technical Annex of Protocol V;

(c) To invite all States Parties to share during the 2011 Meeting of Experts their national technical approaches and experience in implementing Article 9 and Part 3 of the Technical Annex of Protocol V.

In light of the upcoming meeting, I encourage High Contracting Parties to contribute actively to one or several of these tracks in order to advance our work.

To assist in your preparations, I am glad to update you on my plans for the session:
Guide for the implementation of Part 3 of the Technical Annex: The adoption of this guide by the Fourth Conference marks a step in a process of improvement to prevent the occurrence of explosive remnants of war, not an end of the work. Even though the guide has only been adopted very recently, it will be of utmost interest to follow up on this issue, to know how States Parties envisage to disseminate it among their agencies, to their armaments industries, and to understand the main issues on which they have already focused or on which they plan to focus in the future. There will be some presentations on this issue of follow-up to the adoption of the Guide and, to illustrate one of the chapters of the guide, a presentation of standards in munitions storage with practical implementation, which, as last February’s blasts in a military munitions storage facility in Tanzania, that killed at least 25 people, remind us, is still a major issue in our work.

Addressing one specific technical issue: The focus will be put on the designing of weapons, for instance fuses, so that the process of production results in the greatest reliability of the munitions. Some presentations are already scheduled, and I hope will help us to appreciate how the design and production processes can help to achieve this goal and what could be the control of the munitions once they are produced and stored so to ensure that the munitions function as desired and as initially designed.

Should you require further information or consultations on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to a fruitful cooperation,

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

[Signature]

Captain (Navy) Eric Steinmyller
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