

United Nations  Nations Unies

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REFERENCE: ODA/11-2010/CCW-APII

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of ... to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) and its Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996 (Amended Protocol II).

In accordance with Article 13 of Amended Protocol II which provides for a conference of High Contracting Parties to that Protocol to be held annually for the purpose of consultations and cooperation on all issues relating to the Protocol, the Secretary-General has the honour to convene the Twelfth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II and to invite all High Contracting Parties to participate in it. The Secretary-General also has the honour to invite States not parties to Amended Protocol II to participate in the Twelfth Annual Conference as Observers. Pursuant to the relevant decision of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW (Geneva, 12 and 13 November 2009), the Twelfth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II will be held on 24 November 2010 in Geneva.

Furthermore, the Tenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, held in Geneva on 12 November 2008, decided to establish an informal open-ended Group of Experts, as contained in paragraphs 23 and 24 of its Final Document (CCW/AP.II/CONF.10/2). Under the overall responsibility of the President-designate of the Twelfth Annual Conference, the Group of Experts shall review the operation and status of the Protocol, consider matters arising from reports by High Contracting Parties according to paragraph 4 of Article 13 of Amended Protocol II, as well as the development of technologies to protect civilians against indiscriminate effects of mines. The work of the Group shall be considered by the Twelfth Annual Conference. Pursuant to the decision of the Eleventh Annual Conference, the 2010 session of the Group of Experts shall take place on 19 and 20 April 2010.

The Secretary-General wishes to remind His/Her Excellency that, in accordance with Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure, adopted by the First Annual Conference in 1999 and amended during the Fourth Annual Conference in 2002, as contained in document CCW/AP.II/CONF.6/2, “[t]he credentials of representatives and the names

of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of the Conference, if possible not later than 24 hours after the opening of the Conference. [...] The credentials shall be issued by the Head of State or Government, or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs". Credentials shall be submitted to the CCW Implementation Support Unit at the address indicated below.

His/Her Excellency is also reminded that, in accordance with Article 13 (4) of Amended Protocol II, "[t]he High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary, who shall circulate them to all High Contracting Parties in advance of the Conference". Based on a decision of the First Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, the national annual reports should be submitted electronically by e-mail to the following address: ccw@unog.ch, no later than eight weeks prior to the convening of annual conferences, which is not later than 29 September 2010 in the case of the Twelfth Annual Conference. The national annual reports will be posted on the database located at the CCW website at: <http://www.unog.ch/CCW/AmendedProtocolII>.

The Secretary-General also takes this opportunity to recall that Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure provides that "[t]he costs of the Annual Conference will be met by the States Parties to the Amended Protocol II to the Convention participating in the Conference in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessment, adjusted to take into account differences between the United Nations membership and the participation of States parties in the Conference. States which are not States parties to Amended Protocol II and which accept the invitation to take part in the Conference will share in the costs to the extent of their respective rates of assessment under the United Nations scale".

For further information with regard to the Twelfth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, the States are invited to contact:

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19 February 2010

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