



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Disarmament

UN2114

06/182

24 July 2006

Excellency,

I refer to the Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices annexed to the 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).

As you may know, on 23 November 2005 I convened the Seventh Annual Conference of the States Parties to the 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 its final document, the Conference recommended that the Secretary-General, on behalf of the States Parties, exercise his authority to achieve the goal of universality of Amended Protocol II.

Despite the efforts of the international community, landmines, booby-traps and other explosive devices continue to victimize civilians, cause excessive suffering to combatants, and hinder the socio-economic reconstruction of societies struggling to emerge from the ravages of war. Both during and after armed conflict, they aggravate and prolong its horrendous consequences, threatening not only our societies but also future generations.

His Excellency
Mr. ...
Head of State/Prime Minister of ...
[Name of country]
[Capital]



As a legally binding instrument which prohibits or restricts the use of all mines, Amended Protocol II is an important tool for minimizing the humanitarian hazard posed by these weapons and an essential complement to other multilateral efforts in this field. The full and effective implementation of its provisions will significantly improve the protection of civilian populations.

Since its adoption by the First Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention in 1996, 86 States have notified their consent to be bound by the Protocol. I welcome this progress, but more efforts are needed, in particular by those States which have acceded to the original Protocol II.

I, therefore, invite your country to consider consenting to be bound by the Amended Protocol II. The adherence of your country would represent a significant contribution to the strengthening of international law prohibiting and restricting the use of such inhumane weapons in the interest of promoting human security and preserving human life.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Annan', written in a cursive style.

Kofi A. Annan