



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

FSC.EMI/174/17  
30 May 2017


Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the Organization for  
Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations  
and to the International Organizations in Vienna

ENGLISH only

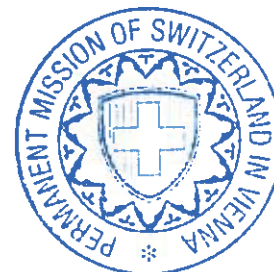
Note 22/2017-OSCE

The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations and to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions/Delegations of Participating States to the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation in Vienna and to the Secretariat of the Conflict Prevention Centre and has the honour, with reference to the FSC.DEC/7/04, to enclose the following information:

**OSCE / Questionnaire on ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES  
and Questionnaire on EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR / 2017,  
(incl. two annexes)**

The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations and to the International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all other Permanent Mission/Delegations of Participating States to the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation in Vienna and to the Secretariat of the Conflict Prevention Centre the assurance of its highest consideration. 

Vienna, 29 May 2017



The Permanent Missions/Delegations to the OSCE FSC  
The Secretariat of the Conflict Prevention Centre

V i e n n a

Wächtergasse 1, 1010 Vienna, Austria  
Phone +43 1 505 89 25, Fax +43 1 263 34 13  
vim.osce@eda.admin.ch  
www.eda.admin.ch/osce



PROTOCOL ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF MINES, BOOBY-  
 TRAPS  
 AND OTHER DEVICES AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996  
 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  
 (PROTOCOL II AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996)

Reporting Formats for Article 13 para 2 and Article 11 para 2.

NAME OF HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY	SWITZERLAND
DATE OF SUBMISSION	<b>31.03.2017</b>
NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT	<hr/> <i>Dr. Vincent Choffat</i> <i>Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection</i> <i>and Sport (DDPS)</i> <i>Armed Forces Staff</i> <i>International Relations Defence</i> <i>Arms Control and Disarmament Policy</i> <i>Kasernenstrasse 7, CH-3003 Bern</i> <i>Phone: ++41 58 464 64 31</i> <i>Fax: ++41 58 465 30 40</i> <i>E-mail: <a href="mailto:vincent.choffat@vtg.admin.ch">vincent.choffat@vtg.admin.ch</a></i> <hr/>

<u>This information can be made available to other interested parties and relevant organisations</u>	
X	YES
...	NO
...	Partially, only the following forms:
A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/>	



### Summary Sheet

(Pursuant to the decision of the Fifth Annual Conference of the States Parties to CCW  
Amended Protocol II as stipulated in paragraph 20 of its Final Report,  
CCW/AP.II/CONF.5/2)

<b>Reporting Period: 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016</b>	
Form A: Dissemination of information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> changed <input type="checkbox"/> unchanged
Form B: Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes:	<input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: <b>2003</b> )
Form C: Technical requirements and relevant information:	<input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged
Form D: Legislation	<input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged
Form E: International technical information exchange, co-operation on mine clearance, technical co-operation and assistance:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> changed <input type="checkbox"/> unchanged
Form F: Other relevant matters:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> changed <input type="checkbox"/> unchanged
Form G: Information to the UN-database on mine clearance:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> changed <input type="checkbox"/> unchanged



**Form A****Dissemination of information**

Article 13 / 4 / a

"The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

(a) dissemination of information on this Protocol to their armed forces and to the civilian population;"

*Remark:*

High Contracting Party SWITZERLAND

reporting for time period from **1 January 2016** to **31 December 2016****Information to the armed forces***[From the Annual Report of Switzerland on the CCW and its Protocols, Form A]*

The protection of persons who are not or are no longer taking part in hostilities as well as the limitation of means and methods of warfare, including notably the prohibition of means and methods of warfare which are of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering to combatants, have always been priorities for Switzerland. Our country puts therefore every effort in the strict implementation and strengthening of the standards set by international humanitarian law (IHL) with regard to all parties involved.

Swiss military doctrine, along with the respective regulations and manuals, reflect the law of armed conflict and its principles including the norms and regulations of the CCW and its Protocols, including amended Protocol II.

Armed Forces personnel are educated in IHL during basic training (recruit school) and in all military cadre schools; IHL is part of the curriculum of the Swiss Armed Forces College, which includes the Military Academy and is responsible for all cadre courses, including courses for General Staff Officers, as well as for legal advisors. Legal advisors attend the relevant course on International Humanitarian Law at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo (Italy), and members of the Armed Forces participating in peace operations receive an instruction on specific Rules of Engagement as part of the pre-deployment training.

Officers are also regularly instructed in the Armed Forces College, Command and Staff Officer School on arms control issues, the norms and regulations of IHL, as well as on the CCW and its Protocols (including amended Protocol II). Dissemination of the law of armed conflict to a wider public is promoted by interactive CD-ROMs and an internet web-site ([www.loac.ch](http://www.loac.ch)).

Every member of the Swiss Armed Forces, independently of the kind of performed duty (i.e. national defence, support to civilian authorities, peace operations or training) has to respect the law (including IHL norms). Illegal orders, especially when their execution is resulting in a violation of IHL or international human rights law (HR), must not be carried out. Commanders are obliged to respect and ensure respect of IHL and HR within their sphere of responsibility.

Members of the Swiss Armed Forces are instructed and trained to use weapons and munitions only according to authorised design and manuals.



*[continued]*

The Swiss Armed Forces International Command SWISSINT is responsible for the pre-deployment training and preparation of members of the Armed Forces. These instructions (e.g. Mine Risk Education) raise awareness and assure the correct behaviour regarding mines, unexploded remnants of war and booby traps. The Swiss EOD Center (Competence center for explosive ordnance disposal, military and humanitarian demining) provides its internationally deployed experts with information on the CCW and its Protocols (including amended Protocol II) as part of the internal humanitarian demining course.

Information to the civilian population

The civilian population has been informed on several occasions on the results of the Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to the amended Protocol II by public statements of government representatives and annual public reports on the implementation of the Mine Action Strategy of the Swiss Confederation. At the occasion of the internal ratification process of amended Protocol II and the Mine Ban Treaty as well as during the introduction of the Swiss Federal Act on War Material, the Swiss Parliament and the civilian population have been informed repeatedly about the new obligations arising from the said legal instruments.



**Form B**

## Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes

Article 13 / 4 / b      "The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;”

**Remark:** The territory of Switzerland contains neither mined areas nor areas suspected to contain mines.

High Contracting Party      SWITZERLAND      reporting for time period from   **1 January 2016**   to   **31 December 2016**

### Mine clearance programs

not applicable
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## Rehabilitation programs

not applicable
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**Form C****Technical requirements and relevant information**

Article 13 / 4 / c

"The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

(c) steps taken to meet technical requirements of this Protocol and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;

*Remark:*High Contracting Party SWITZERLAND reporting for time period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016Technical requirements

Switzerland destroyed all its anti-personnel landmines by 1999 and its anti-tank mines by 2013.

Any other relevant information

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**Form D****Legislation**

Article 13 / 4 / d

"The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

(d) legislation related to this Protocol;

*Remark:*High Contracting Party SWITZERLANDreporting for time period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016Legislation

On 13 December 1996, the Swiss Parliament enacted national legislation prohibiting the development, production, brokerage, acquisition, import, export, transfer, stockpiling, use and possession of and any other activity relating to APM (Swiss Federal Law on War Material). The only activities permitted are those which are directly related to the destruction of or the protection against APM. With entry into force of the amended Protocol II on 3 December 1998 and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction of 1997 (Mine Ban Treaty) on 1 March 1999 for Switzerland, these international legal instruments became integral parts of the Swiss legislation. The definition of "APM" applied in the Swiss Federal Law on War Material was extended to the definition used in the Mine Ban Treaty and the amended Protocol II. According to the modified Article 8 of the Swiss Federal Law on War Material, "APM" is defined as any explosive device that is placed in or on the ground or any other surface or in their proximity and is designed or modified to explode by the presence, proximity or contact of a person and that is intended to incapacitate, injure or kill one or more persons. Mines designed to be detonated by the presence, proximity or contact of a vehicle as opposed to a person that are equipped with anti-handling devices, are not considered anti-personnel mines as a result of being so equipped. This amendment entered into force on 1 March 1999. In addition, the Swiss Parliament adapted art. 8 of the Swiss Federal Law on War Material to the exact wording of art. 2 (3) and art. 3 (1) of the Mine Ban Treaty. This amendment entered into force on 1 June 2004.

Finally, the Swiss Criminal Code (Title Twelve, esp. Art. 264h and 264j, see <https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/19370083/index.html>) and the Military Criminal Code (Title Six, Art. 112d and 114, see <https://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/19270018/index.html> - French only) criminalise the use of prohibited weapons as a war crime.



**Form E****International technical information exchange, co-operation on mine clearance, technical co-operation and assistance**

Article 13 / 4 / e

"The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

(e) measures taken on international technical information exchange, on international co-operation on mine clearance, and on technical co-operation and assistance;

*Remark:--*

High Contracting Party

SWITZERLANDreporting for time period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016International technical information exchange

Switzerland participated in international information exchanges in various ways, among others, by providing technical information and practical demonstrations on Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) systems for the contact-free disposal of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and mines, but also by organising training courses with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), UNICEF, and UNOPS for Mine Action Specialists within the EAPC/PfP framework.



## International co-operation on mine clearance / Technical cooperation

*[Based on the Annual Report of Switzerland for the CCW Convention and its annexed Protocols for the year 2016]*

International co-operation and assistance provided: In 2016, Switzerland attributed CHF 18.9 million to mine action, which includes the engagements in regard to international co-operation and assistance. Due to well-known practical reasons, the attribution to activities addressing the threat posed by anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other ERWs cannot always be clearly separated and quantified.

Switzerland's engagement in international co-operation and assistance is based on the Mine Action Strategy of the Swiss Confederation 2016-2019. This new strategy was published in July 2016 and represents the fourth subsequent national strategy in this domain. The strategy defines a whole of government approach to all activities addressing the threats posed by anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war on policy as well as on operational level.

On that basis, Switzerland provides assistance to mine / cluster munitions / ERW affected countries in terms of funds, material and personnel:

- Support in clearance projects, projects integrating mine action into development, risk awareness campaigns and victim assistance projects mainly through financial contributions in countries and regions such as: Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Columbia, Gaza, Kosovo, Laos, Libya, Mali, Myanmar and Ukraine for about CHF 6.0 million.
- Provision of substantial political and financial support to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD): in the reporting period, Switzerland contributed about CHF 9.27 million to the GICHD, which acts as a facilitator, strategic adviser, research body and think tank in the field of Mine Action (including ERW). The Implementation Support Units (ISU), which serve the States Parties to the APMBC as well as to the CCM, are hosted by the GICHD with considerable in-kind contributions from Switzerland (about CH 0.5 million per annum).
- Provision of experts in the fields of EOD, logistics, finance and information management to UN Mine Action Programmes. During the reporting period, experts were deployed to programmes in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan and Western Sahara as well as to UNOPS and UNMAS HQ in New York and in Geneva. During the reporting period, CHF 2.71 million have been spent for the assignment of personnel. Switzerland further developed and updated its specific training courses for future experts to be sent to international Mine Action Programs with its partners GICHD, UNICEF and UNOPS.
- Provision of EOD systems. This offer includes not only the material but also training and support (follow-up deliveries may take place upon request). During the reporting period, no request for a delivery was submitted. Among the material provided to international Mine Action Programmes, SM EOD-Systems are the most prominent items.

Since 2000 Switzerland has been offering international training courses on the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) via the channels of the Partnership for Peace Program (PfP). Switzerland annually offers a series of courses in different fields of mine action. In the reporting period, Switzerland along with such partners as the GICHD, UNICEF and UNOPS offered seven courses with the following topics: "Ammunition Safety Practitioner", "Integrated Mine Action for Better Results", "Application of IMAS", two "A1 IMSMA-Training-Courses", one "A2 IMSMA-Training-Course", two basic "Support Service Officers Courses" and one senior "Support Service Officers Course". The courses took place in Spiez.



**Form F****Other relevant matters**

Article 13 / 4 / f

”The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

(f) other relevant matters.

*Remark:*

High Contracting Party

SWITZERLAND

reporting for time period from

1 January 2016 to31 December 2016Other relevant matters

According to its mine action policy 2016-2019, the Swiss Government will continue its contributions to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining



**Form G****Information to the UN-database on mine clearance**

Article 11 para 2      "The High Contracting Parties shall provide information to the database on mine clearance established within the United Nations System, especially on:

- information concerning various means and technologies of mine clearance, and lists of experts, expert agencies or national points of contact on mine clearance

High Contracting Party    SWITZERLAND      reporting for time period from    1 January 2016    to    31 December 2016

<u>Means and technologies of mine clearance</u>	
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<u>Lists of experts and experts agencies</u>	
Swiss EOD Centre (Komp Zen ABC KAMIR) Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport Alpenstrasse 2 CH - 3609 Thun	<i>Experts of the Swiss EOD Centre:</i> Mr. Franz Bär Phone: +41 58 468 46 12 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:FranzOtto.Baer@vtg.admin.ch">FranzOtto.Baer@vtg.admin.ch</a>
<u>National points of contact on mine clearance</u>	
Mr. Robert Amsler Federal Department of Defence Armed Forces Staff International Relations Head of Mine Action Unit Kasernenstrasse 7 CH-3003 Bern Phone:        +41 58 464 49 75 Cell:         +41 79 456 64 21 Fax:          +41 58 464 83 30 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:Robert.Amsler@vtg.admin.ch">Robert.Amsler@vtg.admin.ch</a>	Mr. François Garraux Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs  Human Security Division Section for Multilateral Peace Policy Bundesgasse 32 CH-3003 Bern Phone:        +41 58 462 08 16 Cell:         +41 79 827 00 89 Fax:          +41 58 464 90 69 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Francois-Philippe.Garraux@eda.admin.ch">Francois-Philippe.Garraux@eda.admin.ch</a>





# **CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

**(OTTAWA CONVENTION)**

**Updated information provided in accordance  
with article 7, paragraph 2**

# **Switzerland**

**Date of submission: 30.04.2017**



## **0. Point of Contact**

Federal Department of Defense, Civil Protection and Sports  
International Relations, Defense  
Euro-Atlantic Security Cooperation  
Papiermühlestrasse 20  
3003 Bern  
Phone: +41 58 464 64 31  
Fax: +41 58 465 30 40

## **1. National implementation measures**

No additional legal, administrative and other measures were taken during the previous calendar year to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited under the Convention. See Switzerland's report submitted in 2015 for the latest information.

## **2. Stockpiled anti-personnel mines**

This matter is not applicable since Switzerland destroyed all stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

## **3. Anti-personnel mines retained or transferred for permitted purposes**

Switzerland does not retain or transfer anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes.

## **4. Areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines**

The territory of Switzerland contains neither mined areas nor areas suspected to contain mines.

## **5. Technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines**

Not applicable.

## **6. Conversion or decommissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities**

Not applicable.

## **7. Victim assistance**

Not applicable.

## **8. Cooperation and assistance**

International co-operation and assistance provided: In 2016, Switzerland attributed CHF 18.9 million to mine action, which includes the engagements in regard to international co-operation and assistance. Due to well-known practical reasons, the attribution to activities addressing the threat posed by anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other ERWs cannot always be clearly separated and quantified.

Switzerland's engagement in international co-operation and assistance is based on the Mine Action Strategy of the Swiss Confederation 2016-2019. This new strategy was published in July 2016 and represents the fourth subsequent national strategy in this domain. The strategy defines a whole of government approach to all activities addressing the threats posed by anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war on policy as well as on operational level.



On that basis, Switzerland provides assistance to mine / cluster munitions / ERW affected countries in terms of funds, material and personnel:

- Support in clearance projects, projects integrating mine action into development, risk awareness campaigns and victim assistance projects mainly through financial contributions in countries and regions such as: Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Columbia, Gaza, Kosovo, Laos, Libya, Mali, Myanmar and Ukraine for about CHF 6.0 million.
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- Provision of experts in the fields of EOD, logistics, finance and information management to UN Mine Action Programmes. During the reporting period, experts were deployed to programmes in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan and Western Sahara as well as to UNOPS and UNMAS HQ in New York and in Geneva. During the reporting period, CHF 2.71 million have been spent for the assignment of personnel. Switzerland further developed and updated its specific training courses for future experts to be sent to international Mine Action Programs with its partners GICHD, UNICEF and UNOPS.
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