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AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ
ATƏT YANINDA
DAİMI NÜMAYƏNDƏLİYİ



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO THE OSCE

Hügelgasse 2, A-1130, Wien | Tel.: +43 (1) 403 13 22 | Fax: +43 (1) 403 13 23 | E-mail: vienna@mission.mfa.gov.az

No. AZ/0301/25

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the OSCE presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions and Delegations of the OSCE participating States and to the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE, and has the honour to transmit herewith the reply of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the OSCE avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions and Delegations of the OSCE participating States and to the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure: as stated

Vienna, 5 May 2025



**Permanent Missions and Delegations of the OSCE participating States
The Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE
Vienna**

OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

Part I

- 1. Is your country a State Party to the 1996 Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices annexed to the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW)**

Azerbaijan is not a party to the 1996 Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices annexed to the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW).

If yes:

- 2. Please attach the most recent annual report submitted by your country in accordance with Article 13 of the Amended Protocol or give the appropriate electronic address for the report.**

N/A

If no:

- 3. Is your country considering ratification/accession to the Amended Protocol II?**

Azerbaijan acknowledges the humanitarian concerns caused by indiscriminate use of mines, booby-traps and other devices and commends the efforts of the international community to minimize the dangers posed by such weapons. As a country suffering from mass contamination of its territories with explosive hazards, most notably with mines, booby-traps and other devices, Azerbaijan supports the humanitarian objectives of the CCW and the Amended Protocol II.

Armenia's military aggression and belligerent occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan for nearly three decades have been the primary reason preventing Azerbaijan to become a party to the CCW and the Amended Protocol II. Armenia planted mines in the territories of Azerbaijan without military necessity, deliberately targeted civilians, failed to mark and document properly minefields, refused to fulfil its obligations to disclose information on the location of minefields after cessation of hostilities and in a timely manner.

Although the conflict came to an end with the signing of the trilateral statement on 10 November 2020, these illegal activities, including transferring of landmines, a significant portion of which constituted anti-personnel mines, into the territory of Azerbaijan and committing various provocations using mines against civilians and military personnel had continued until the illegal Armenian armed forces were disarmed, withdrawn and Azerbaijan restored its full sovereignty in September 2023.

Under international pressure, Armenia released some records of mined areas, practical utility of which remains low. International efforts to get more and accurate minefield

records has not yielded positive results so far. The presented minefield records constitute only 1.25% of all the liberated areas.

More than 2,700 mines were found and disposed in the Lachin and Kalbajar districts, as well as Garabagh Economic Zone of Azerbaijan. These mines were produced in Armenia in 2021, which indicates that they were laid in Azerbaijan's territory after the signing of the trilateral statement of November 10, 2020. After gaining access to the area following the local anti-terrorist measures on September 20, 2023, authorities of Azerbaijan revealed that Armenia had extensively laid landmines and booby traps in the territory of Azerbaijan where the Russian peacekeeping contingent was temporarily deployed.

Along with causing human loss, landmines planted by Armenia create further obstacles for the return of displaced persons, seriously impede comprehensive rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts and undermine the overall post-conflict normalization process.

In addition to the mine problem, Armenia's extensive armament, escalatory policy and military provocations along the undelimited state border, as well as growing militaristic posture continue to pose serious security concern and endanger the lives and well-being of Azerbaijani civilians.

The armed forces of Armenia continue to possess a significant stockpile of indiscriminate weaponry, including those falling under the scope of the CCW and the Amended Protocol II, and there is no indication that Armenia will be willing to get rid of these weapons any time soon.

Armenia as the only country responsible for the mine problem in Azerbaijan is not a party to the CCW and the Amended Protocol II and evades its international responsibilities under international humanitarian law and those enshrined in these legal instruments by failing to provide necessary assistance to Azerbaijan to demine its contaminated territories, including accurate information regarding location of mines in all liberated territories. Under these circumstances, Azerbaijan is unable to accede to the Amended Protocol II. Azerbaijan may consider joining the CCW and the Amended Protocol II in the context of demining of its liberated territories and full stabilization of the regional security.

4. What measures have been taken to prevent the indiscriminate use of mines, booby-traps and other devices?

Azerbaijan remains committed to its international obligations, upholding international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and rules of customary international law.

Azerbaijan takes all necessary measures to ensure that its armed forces discharge their duties in full compliance with international humanitarian law. This includes proper instruction on compliance with the provisions of international humanitarian law, in particular adherence to the essential principle of distinction between civilians and combatants, military targets and civilian objects. Specific regulations have been adopted which prohibit indiscriminate use of weapons, including mines, booby-traps and other devices.

5. Would your country be interested in receiving assistance related to the implementation of this Protocol? If so, please describe.

Azerbaijan is not a party to the 1996 Amended Protocol II. However, given the scale and humanitarian consequences of the problem Azerbaijan urgently needs assistance on mine clearance and victim assistance.

Please see the response to Question 10.

6. Does your country have the capacity to assist others related to this Protocol? If so, please describe.

ANAMA's increased capacity and experience it gets through the partnership with international partners present a unique opportunity to utilize and share them with other contaminated countries. ANAMA is willing to share its experience in mine action with relevant agencies of those countries that are affected by landmines through workshops and field practices.

The Republic of Azerbaijan has assisted Afghanistan, Georgia and Türkiye in detection and destruction of mines, explosive remnants of war and also been engaged in providing thematic trainings. The collected experience can be used and shared with relevant agencies elsewhere. Today ANAMA is able to deliver necessary courses related to humanitarian demining. International assistance for Azerbaijan to rapidly demine its liberated territories would increase ability to assist other countries in addressing mine contamination.

Part II

7. Has your country ratified or acceded to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction?

Azerbaijan has not ratified or acceded to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

However, Azerbaijan supports the idea and humanitarian goals of the Convention. To that end, Azerbaijan conducts extensive demining operation in its entire liberated territories mostly with its own resources. ANAMA also publishes Quarterly report on its activities of demining operations, Explosive Risk Ordnance Education (EORE), mine victim assistance and also international initiatives.

8. (a) If yes, please attach the most recent report submitted by your country in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention or give the appropriate electronic address for the report.

N/A

(b) If no, is your country considering ratification/accession to the Convention?

For the reasons mentioned in response to Question 3, Part I, the Republic of Azerbaijan is unable to accede to the Convention. Azerbaijan may consider joining the CCW and the Amended Protocol II in the context of demining of its liberated territories and full stabilization of the regional security.

(c) Has your country adopted legislation to address the humanitarian objectives of the convention, or taken any specific measures regarding the use, production, storage, transfer and destruction of anti-personnel landmines? In case a moratorium has been introduced, what is its scope and duration and when was it introduced?

Azerbaijan has not adopted legislation on the implementation of the Ottawa Convention since it is not a State Party to the Convention. Nevertheless, mine victim assistance activity that constitutes one of the main objectives of the Convention is carried out in Azerbaijan under the national legislation. This law, *inter alia*, envisages social and economic reintegration, medical and professional rehabilitation, and social security of disabled people, including mine victims.

9. Does your country have any specific measures in place to provide assistance to victims?

The Government of Azerbaijan conducts a set of measures to support reintegration and rehabilitation of mine victims. The Government provides rehabilitation equipment involving modern prostheses, motorized wheelchairs as well as social and psychological services. These also include targeted social assistance, pension and different types of prosthetic devices.

National agencies including ANAMA, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, the Ombudsman, non-governmental organizations and other related bodies closely cooperate to address the problems faced by mine victims. These agencies also cooperate with international organizations such as the European Union, International Committee of Red Cross and the United Nations Development Programme for mine victim assistance.

The government provides inclusive vocational education, supports entrepreneurship efforts and small businesses of mine victims in order to increase their employment opportunities and improve their economic conditions. Mine victims are also encouraged to participate in sports events for health benefits.

10. Does your country require assistance in mine clearance, stockpile destruction, mine awareness and/or victim assistance? If so, please describe.

As one of the most mine-contaminated countries, Azerbaijan exerts utmost efforts against the humanitarian threat landmines pose to civilian population. Mines negatively affect the life of population and remain the immediate source of humanitarian threat. International assistance to Azerbaijan by the donor community will make a significant contribution to the global campaign against landmines while current lack of due assistance curtails this campaign. As mines present a humanitarian threat globally, any discrimination in distributing assistance aggravates the humanitarian threat that landmines pose and devalue the cause of global efforts against mines.

The Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA) periodically publishes reports on its demining activities as well as mine-related incidents including deaths and injuries. Since 10 November 2020, 236 incidents of landmine explosion took place in Azerbaijan. 393 people fell victim to mine explosions, with 70 being killed and 323 severely injured. The number of victims of landmines and cluster munitions in the last 30 years stands above 3400 (by April 2025). Such indiscriminate use of mines continues to cause superfluous injuries and unnecessary suffering to civilians. The threat caused by mines creates humanitarian urgency that needs utmost attention.

Since the liberation of its territories, the Government of Azerbaijan has allocated 789 million Azerbaijani manats (464 million USD) for demining activities whilst the amount of pledged foreign aid in this regard has remained as low as around 23.5 million USD.

Given the ongoing landmine problem in Azerbaijan and the challenges in addressing it, there is an urgent need for increased international support to strengthen Azerbaijan's humanitarian mine action capacity. Such support would not only aid in demining efforts, but also contribute to the global campaign against landmines and demonstrate a commitment to peace and cooperation in the region.

11. Does your country have the capacity to assist others in mine action? If so, please describe.

Please, see the response to Question 6, Part I.

OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

- 1. Has your country notified the Depositary of its consent to be bound by the 2003 CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) once it enters into force? Is your country considering doing so?**

Azerbaijan is not a party to the CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War.

Under these circumstances mentioned in the response to Question 3, Part I, Azerbaijan is unable to accede to Protocol V. Azerbaijan may consider joining the CCW and Protocol V in the context of clearing of its liberated territories from explosive hazards and full stabilization of the regional security.

- 2. If yes, at what stage is the process?**

N/A

- 3. Would your country be interested in receiving assistance in clearing or otherwise minimizing the risks and effects of ERW? If so, please describe.**

As one of the most mine/ERW contaminated countries, Azerbaijan exerts utmost efforts against the humanitarian threat explosive hazards pose to civilian population. Mines and ERW negatively affect the life of population and remains the immediate source of humanitarian threat. International assistance to Azerbaijan by the donor community will make a significant contribution to the global campaign against mines and ERW while current lack of due assistance curtails this campaign. As mines and ERW present a humanitarian threat globally, any discrimination in distributing assistance aggravates the humanitarian threat that landmines pose and devalue the cause of global efforts against mines.

The Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA) periodically publishes reports on its demining activities as well as mine-related incidents including deaths and injuries. Since 10 November 2020, 236 incidents of landmine explosion took place in Azerbaijan. 393 people fell victim to mine explosions, with 70 being killed and 323 severely injured. The number of victims of landmines and cluster munitions in the last 30 years stands above 3400 (by April 2025). Such indiscriminate use of mines continues to cause superfluous injuries and unnecessary suffering to civilians. The threat caused by mines creates humanitarian urgency that needs utmost attention.

Since the liberation of its territories, the Government of Azerbaijan has allocated 789 million of Azerbaijani manats (464 million USD) for demining activities whilst the amount of pledged foreign aid in this regard has remained as low as around 23.5 million USD.

Given the ongoing landmine/ERW problem in Azerbaijan and the challenges faced by national agencies in addressing it, there is an urgent need for increased international support to strengthen Azerbaijan's clearance capacity. Such support would not only aid in clearance

efforts, but also contribute to the global campaign against landmines/ERW and demonstrate a commitment to peace and cooperation in the region.

4. Does your country have the capacity to assist others in clearing and minimizing the risks and effects of ERW? If so, please describe.

ANAMA's increased capacity and experience it gets through the partnership with international actors presents a unique opportunity to utilize and share them with other contaminated countries. ANAMA is willing to share its experience in mine action with relevant agencies of those countries that are affected by landmines/ERW through workshops and field practices.

Republic of Azerbaijan assisted Afghanistan, Georgia and Türkiye in detection and destruction of mines, ERW and also engaged in providing thematic trainings. This unit was also engaged in providing thematic trainings. The collected experience can be used and shared with relevant agencies elsewhere. Today within the package of standard trainings ANAMA is able to deliver necessary courses related to humanitarian demining. International assistance for Azerbaijan to rapidly demine its liberated territories would increase our ability to assist other countries in addressing mine contamination.