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NOTE VERBALE

The Embassy of Georgia to the Republic of Austria, Permanent Representation of Georgia to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Missions/Delegations of the participating States to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre and with reference to FSC Decision No. 7/04, has the honor to submit an updated version of the Georgian Response to the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Mines and on Explosive Remnants of War.

The Embassy of Georgia to the Republic of Austria, Permanent Representation of Georgia to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Missions/Delegations of the participating States to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 13 July 2022

To: OSCE Missions and Delegations
Conflict Prevention Centre
Vienna



OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Mines

Part I

1. Georgia is 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).
2. Below is the electronic address of the year 2022: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/ccw-amended-protocol-ii/national-annual-reports-and-data-base/ccw-apis-database/>
3. 1996 Amended Protocol II of the Convention was ratified by the Parliament of Georgia in 2009, June 8.
4. According to the Constitution of Georgia, all international agreements or conventions are part of the national legislation and therefore, it is obligatory to fulfill the provisions set forth in them. Stemming from the mentioned, all restrictions and obligations under the II Amended Protocol are legally binding to exercise.
5. Explosives Remnants of War Coordination Centre (ERWCC) under LEPL State Military Scientific-Technical Center "DELTA" of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) of Georgia was established in March 2012. ERWCC has been transformed as a Humanitarian Demining Division (HDD) under DELTA in 2013. Humanitarian Demining Division after the reorganization has been transformed as a Humanitarian Demining Control Division under DELTA in January 2019. It coordinates and implements the mine action in the country; HDCD requires additional assistance with financial means, relevant equipment and subject matter expertise related to development of National Mine Action Standards and National Technical Standards Guidelines as well as staff trainings on International Mine Action Standards, Mine Action Management, Non-Technical/Technical surveys and EOD.
6. Ministry of Defence of Georgia does not have the capacity to assist others with regards to implementation of practical aspects of the protocol.

Part II

7. Georgia has not acceded to the 1997 Convention on the prohibition of the use stockpiling, production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction;
8. LEPL DELTA of the MOD is a main mine action coordination authority in Georgia. It coordinates Humanitarian mine action in the country that among others includes conduction of QA/QC and creation and implementation of Georgian National Mine Action Standards and National Technical Standards Guidelines (in accordance with IMAS and IATG). Upon request of Georgian government different demining organizations (Halo Trust, NPA) were invited to conduct demining activities in the war affected areas as well as on the soviet legacy minefields including assistance (iMMAP, ITF, NSPA) in relevant trainings and institutionalization of mine action in Georgia (in accordance with IMAS and IATG). As a result of the works, most of the mine and ERW contaminated areas in the country have been cleared, however demining works are still ongoing.
HALO Trust continuous the demining operations in the occupied Abkhazia region, however the coordination, monitoring of clearance operation as well as external QA/QC cannot be conducted by HDCD.

9. ERW and mine victims are not differentiated from other persons with disabilities. They are included along with other disabled people in the same governmental programs and projects and enjoy the similar benefits.

There is a Law on Social Protection of Disabled person (1995) approved by the Parliament of Georgia (last amendment was made in March, 2017).

Medical rehabilitation capabilities were developed at the Military Hospital named after Giorgi Abramishvili in Gori (within the NATO/PfP Trust Fund project "Georgia III"), to also assist ERW wounded military and civilian personnel. In addition, in 2018, the building of new Military Hospital was completed in Kutaisi. Moreover, Refurbishment of the Military Hospital named after Giorgi Abramishvili in Gori and Kutaisi as well as development of prosthetic rehabilitation capabilities in Georgia are ongoing.

Namely: New modern-standard rehabilitation center was built and opened in January 2020 on the territory of "Maro Makashvili rehabilitation centre of military servicemen" with US support. Equipped with latest technologies center serves wounded/injured military servicemen and their family members. Rehabilitation of wounded and injured military servicemen through Transition, Rehabilitation and adaption programs as well as sport activities is also supported and pursued.

Besides, International Humanitarian Organizations such as ICRC, ITF and IOM provided assistance to mine victims in order to facilitate their social reintegration (including micro credits program, provision of prosthesis and etc.).

10. Ministry of Defence continues developing mine action and stockpile destruction capacity with partners support, however, DELTA/HDCD requires assistance with financial means, relevant equipment and subject matter expertise related to development of Georgian National Mine Action Standards and National Technical Standards Guidelines (in accordance with IMAS and IATG), also in conducting the GMAA (General Mine Action Assessment) as well as staff trainings on EOD level 1, 2, 3; Technical/Non-Technical survey; Management; IMSMA database and IMAS skills.
11. Ministry of Defence continues developing mine action capacity; however, MOD does not have the capacity to support others in the mine action yet.

OSCE Questionnaire on Explosive Remnants of War

- 1-2. 2003 CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) was ratified by the Parliament of Georgia in 2008.
3. HDCD requires assistance with financial means, relevant equipment and subject matter expertise related to development of Georgian National Mine Action Standards and National Technical Standards Guidelines (in accordance with IMAS and IATG) in conducting the GMAA (General Mine Action Assessment) as well as staff trainings on EOD level 1, 2, 3; Technical/Non-Technical survey; Management; IMSMA database and IMAS skills.

4. Ministry of Defence does not have the full capacity to support others in clearing and minimizing the risks and effects of ERW yet.