



***Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia  
to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna***

No. 775/25 PS072/A-VIII-19

**Note Verbale**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to Missions and Delegations to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre, and in accordance with the Decision 7/04 of the Forum for Security Co-operation, has the honor to transmit herewith the reply to the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Mines and Explosive Remnants of the War.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Missions, Delegations to the OSCE and the Conflict Prevention Centre the assurances of its highest consideration.



Vienna, 2 June 2025

Delegations/Permanent Missions to the OSCE  
The Conflict Prevention Centre  
Vienna

## OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

To be submitted no later than 31 May of each year (starting in May 2005)

### 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)?

*Yes, the Republic of Serbia is 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).*

#### 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.

*The Republic of Serbia has submitted its annual report:*

*<https://disarmament.unoda.org/ccw-amended-protocol-ii/national-annual-reports-and-data-base/ccw-apii-database/>.*

*Please find attached.*

#### If no:

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

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

*In line with Article 7 of the Convention, the Ministry of Defence and the Serbian Armed Forces currently hold 3,134 pieces of anti-personnel mines (APM) that are used for the purpose of training and testing of arms and military equipment.*

*They are stored in warehouses that are under supervision and not accessible to unauthorized personnel, so the possibility of misuse is reduced.*

*Serbian Armed Forces has no program for the development and production of anti-personnel mines, booby traps and other devices prohibited by the convention.*

*In 2024, no retained APM were spent.*

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

/

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

*The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia has the capacity to offer the services of TRZ Kragujevac, as the organisation in charge of performing APMs destruction.*

## 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?

*Yes, the Republic of Serbia ratified and acceded to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.*

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.

*The Republic of Serbia has submitted its annual report:*

*<https://disarmament.unoda.org/anti-personnel-landmines-convention/article-7-reports/article-7-database/>.*

*Please find attached the report.*

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

/

(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?

*The Republic of Serbia has not adopted specific legislation to address the humanitarian objectives of the Convention because ratification of the Convention implies that the Convention has become a part of the positive regulations in the Republic of Serbia (under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia).*

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

*The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs of the Government Republic of Serbia in charge of the integration of victims assistance, and undertakes activities aimed at supporting victims. The Department for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities and the Department for the Veterans-Disabled Protection were formed as bodies directly responsible for the activity of assisting persons with disabilities.*

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

*Having in mind the specificity of mine clearance problem in the Republic of Serbia, and in particular the fact that in the territory of Serbia, apart from mines, there is large contamination with unexploded cluster munitions, air bombs – rockets and other unexploded ordnance (UXO), Serbia requires international financial assistance for conducting mine clearance operations.*

*As of 1 May 2025, there is 1 area in the Republic of Serbia suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totaling 268,100 square metres. The Republic of Serbia is facing with a problem of newly discovered mine suspected areas in the Bujanovac Municipality. In October 2019, in the territory of the Bujanovac Municipality, at the request of representatives of local self-government, the Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia (SMAC) conducted survey and marking of locations suspected to be contaminated by groups of mines. These are locations*

where forest fires occurred (in August 2021, too), and according to eyewitnesses, explosions could be heard in several places after the fire broke out, indicating the existence of mines in these areas. Representatives of SMAC and Emergency Management Staff of the Municipality of Bujanovac, visited the sites and interviewed local residents, local community representatives, fire-fighters, as well as police and military representatives.

Furthermore, mine suspected areas have been marked in order to clearly and visually warn of mine danger, as well as to ban the entry of population into mine suspected area. Mine warning signs have been posted in the areas of possible access to mined areas (roads, paths and other areas where movement of people is expected).

Given that the areas suspected to be contaminated with mines are located in the Municipality of Bujanovac, which is an area with multi-ethnic population, the whole area has been visibly marked with "Stop Mines" signs in Serbian and Albanian languages.

In March 2024, Serbia applied for a fourth extension of the deadline for fulfilling its obligations to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on their Destruction. Serbia requested a two-year extension, which is December 2026 and was granted the extension at the Fifth Review Conference (5RC) of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction, which took place in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 25 to 29 November 2024.

This would provide the possibility to complete non-technical survey of newly discovered mine suspected areas in the Bujanovac Municipality, which will take up to 1 year and will focus on the areas where fire forests occurred and explosions could be heard. By then, Serbia will get a clear picture of the remaining mine contamination and development of a detailed plan containing SHA and CHA will be enabled.

The Republic of Serbia is fully committed to fulfilment of its obligations under Article 5 of the AP Mine Ban Convention. Serbia's achievements regarding the issue have been significant so far.

The remaining areas contaminated by mines do not have registries and had not been planted in specific patterns.

These are groups of mines, not minefields. On most of these areas deaths of humans or animals occurred or a mine was accidentally detected.

All these circumstances aggravate survey and clearance efforts, namely survey results are subject to alterations.

SMAC has developed and submitted non-technical survey project to ITF Enhancing Human Security, and transferred the funds that the Serbian Government allocated for 2024 and 2025 demining operations in Bujanovac, in order for ITF to match these funds with available donor funds, so that this project can be implemented. The project commenced in February 2025 - SMAC representatives and survey team engaged on the Project are undergoing the training to conduct operations in the field.

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

The Serbian Mine Action Centre retains vast expertise in mine clearance, in particular as regards survey, project tasks developing, quality control, governing of mine clearance project tasks and training. Serbia is willing to share experience and lessons learned from the ongoing and completed operations.

SMAC has its own trainers internationally qualified to conduct EOD level 1 and EOD level 2 training courses to interested stakeholders around the world.

## OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

**To be submitted on a voluntary basis along with the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-personnel Mines no later than 31 May each year.**

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?

*No, the Republic of Serbia has not notified the Depositary of its consent, as it is still not a State Party.*

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

*An initiative for signing i.e. ratification of CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War was launched by the responsible authority of the Republic of Serbia.*

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

*In addition to the contamination with landmines, the Republic of Serbia suffers from additional contamination by Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) as follows:*

*As of May 2025, the area of about 248,767 square meters is contaminated with cluster munitions.*

*It is assumed that since the 1999 bombing, about 150 air bombs – rockets weighing up to 930 kg are located throughout Serbia in the ground at a depth of up to 20 m.*

*It is suspected that after fire and explosions in military depots in Paraćin, Vranje, Kraljevo, Požarevac, Valjevo, Novi Sad, Smederevo, Raška, Grdelica, Kragujevac, outside of military objects, in an area of around 18.000.000 square meters, there are various types of ERW.*

*From the 1999 bombing of our country, unexploded air bombs-rockets can be found in the Sava River and the Danube River: (Bridge Bogojevo – Erdut, Bridge Bačka Palanka – Ilok, Novi Sad 1 – upstream the Sloboda bridge, Novi Sad 2- downstream the railway bridge, Pančevo Port, Transmission line Ritopek – Ivanovo, Bridge Smederevo – Kovin, Prahovo Port, Šabac, Obrenovac 1 – in the vicinity of thermal power plant, Obrenovac 2 – in the vicinity of Barič factory).*

*It is suspected that in the Sava River, in the area of the Jamena Village, there are improvised mines remaining from the 1999-1995 conflicts.*

*In the Derdap Gorge, on the Danube River, in the vicinity of Prahovo, in 1944, German war vessels containing large quantity of unexploded ordnance, including anti-ship mines, were sunken. In 2006, a survey was conducted and the positions of 23 sunken vessels were determined as well as the existence of various types of UXO and anti-ship mines on 4 vessels. These UXO pose a threat to people and environment and significantly obstruct navigation in this part of the Danube. The activities related to the data acquisition, regarding shipwrecks in Prahovo, have been performed also in the period September 2020 – November 2020.*

*In addition to the 21 known wrecks, from the previous surveys, an additional number of 18 wrecks were identified during the preliminary analysis.*

*603 UXO suspicious objects were identified in the sectors around shipwrecks, representing potential danger for removal of the 39 shipwrecks. In 2023, the implementation of the project "Removal of the Sunken German Fleet from the Danube River near Prahovo"*

*commenced. In addition to this project, SMAC developed "Project for protection against ERW during the removal of 21 sunken vessels in the Danube River near Prahovo". In 2024, within this project, a German fleet ship, a minesweeper, and a fishing boat were successfully removed and cleared of explosive remnants of war.*

*Given the above and the complexity of the problem, Serbia would be interested in receiving international financial assistance for conducting clearance operations.*

*The Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia are interested in receiving assistance, such as training of trainers and creating a pool of trainers so that in the future they can conduct modern demining training and destruction of unexploded ordnance in accordance with international standards, as well as in receiving assistance in modern demining equipment and equipment for destruction of explosive remnants of war.*

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

*Serbia is willing to share experience and lessons learned from the ongoing and completed operations.*

*As the SMAC is the only institution responsible for conducting training in this area, SMAC has developed its own program for recognizing explosive remnants of war in accordance with IMAS and submitted it to the Ministry of Education for verification which verified it in March 2021.*

*The purpose of the training is to educate trainees (members of local self-governments, civil protection, hunters and construction workers engaged in excavation works in the ERW contaminated areas) in the field of mine action and to enable them to improve knowledge and ability to recognize ERW in the Republic of Serbia.*

*In addition to this, SMAC is also, in cooperation with UK based DRAKON Group, delivering IMAS EOD related training courses.*

*In 2024, the EOD Level 1,2, 3, 3+ courses, co-organized by SMAC and UK based DRAKON Group, were attended by 52 trainees from 24 different countries (Burundi, Uganda, Kenia, Djibouti, Portugal, Iraq, Croatia, Serbia, UK, France, Ethiopia, DR Congo, Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Ireland, Nepal, the Netherlands, Columbia, Hungary, Canada, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Switzerland).*

## AMENDED PROTOCOL II

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)

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### REPORTING FORMATS

for Article 13 paragraph 4 and Article 11 paragraph 2

NAME OF THE HIGH  
CONTRACTING PARTY: Republic of Serbia

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 27/03/2025

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF

CONTACT: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sector for  
Security Policy, Arms Control Department,  
+381 11 306 89 36, okn@mfa.rs,  
sbp@mfa.rs

Mine Action Centre of the Republic of  
Serbia: +381 11 30 45 280,  
czrs@czrs.gov.rs  
(Organization, telephones, fax, e-mail)

This information can be available to other interested parties and relevant organizations:

☒ YES

☐ NO

☐ Partially, only the following forms:

A ☐

B ☐

C ☐

D ☐

E ☐

F ☐

G ☐

CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

## AMENDED PROTOCOL II

### Form A      Dissemination of information

Article 13,  
paragraph 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:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2024  
dd/mm/yyyy

to: 31/12/2024  
dd/mm/yyyy

#### INFORMATION TO THE ARMED FORCES:

The Serbian Armed Forces have consistently applied procedures as defined in the Amended Protocol II and there have been no changes in the manner of dissemination of relevant data to members of the Serbian Armed Forces.

#### INFORMATION TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION:

The Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia, as a national coordinating body in charge of humanitarian demining/mine action activities in the Republic of Serbia, carries out a number of efforts to ensure that the civilians from affected communities are not injured by mines, cluster munitions and other UXO including through the following methods:

##### -Marking;

The whole area suspected to be contaminated with various types of mines has been visibly marked with “STOP UXO” signs in Serbian and Albanian languages, given that it is an area with multiethnic population. Areas contaminated with cluster munitions, air bombs – rockets and other UXO, have been also marked correspondingly. Marking is conducted by the Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC) and within its regular activities the SMAC periodically visits contaminated locations making sure that these signs remain emplaced.

##### -Risk education;

Locals of the affected communities are being informed about demining activities through a number of means and media. Mine risk education has been conducted in schools and affected communities. In accordance with the IMAS, during demining operations,

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evacuation of people from houses, shops and other communal locations located within the zone of demining works is conducted. Suspension of traffic on the roads within the zone of demining operations is conducted, too. In relation to that, the SMAC coordinates activities with local authorities, school authorities and other relevant state bodies (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Transport), local media means in communities where demining operations are conducted.

Pursuant to Article 35 of the Law on Ministries, SMAC conducts expert works in the field of humanitarian demining related, among others, to educating population of mine/ERW risk.

As the SMAC is the only institution responsible for conducting training in this area, SMAC has developed its own program for recognizing explosive remnants of war in accordance with IMAS and submitted it to the Ministry of Education for verification which verified it in March 2021.

The purpose of the training is to educate trainees (members of local self-governments, civil protection, hunters and construction workers engaged in excavation works in the ERW contaminated areas) in the field of mine action and to enable them to improve knowledge and ability to recognize ERW in the Republic of Serbia.

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### **Form B**      **Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes**

Article 13,  
paragraph 4 (b)      "The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
Depositary [...] on [...]:

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;"

*Remark:*

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2024

dd/mm/yyyy

to: 31/12/2024

dd/mm/yyyy

#### **MINE CLEARANCE PROGRAMMES:**

The Serbian Mine Action Centre (founded in 2002) is a national coordinating body in charge of humanitarian demining/mine action activities in Serbia. SMAC develops, implements and reviews a program of humanitarian demining/mine action activities with an annual work plan, which is adopted by the Serbian Government. Serbia's deadline to fulfil its Mine Ban Treaty Article 5 obligations was 31 December 2024. Given that Serbia was not be in a position to fulfill its obligations, Serbia submitted the request for the extension until December 31, 2026, which was granted at the Fifth Review Conference (SRC) of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction, which took place in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 25 to 29 November 2024. As of December 2024, the area in the Republic of Serbia suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totals 268,100 square metres in the Municipality of Bujanovac, plus newly discovered mine suspected areas in the Bujanovac Municipality, which will be the subject of the non-technical survey project aimed at determining the scope of contamination. The whole area suspected to be contaminated with various types of mines and other UXO has been visibly marked with bilingual warning signs, given that it is an area with mixed ethnic population.

#### **REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES:**

In the Republic of Serbia, the Strategy for promoting the position of persons with disabilities, 2020-2024 is in force. The Strategy recognized their equal rights of other disabled persons, such as disabled war veterans, peacetime disabled veterans, as well as civilian disabled veterans. The Republic of Serbia is also implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with

## CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

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Disabilities. Under the Law on professional rehabilitation and employment of person with disabilities, the status of a person with disabilities is granted to disabled war veterans, peacetime disabled veterans and civilian disabled veterans. This Law is based on the principles governing the protection of human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, inclusion of all persons with disabilities, on an equal footing, in all spheres of social life – in accordance with their professional skills.

The Law on professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disability was adopted in our country and it entered into force on 23 May, 2009. Provisions of law relating to the duties of the employer who employs fifty (50) employees to engage one person with disability entered into force on May 24, 2010.

This law is based on the principles: respect for human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities; inclusion of persons with disabilities in all spheres of social life on an equal basis - in accordance with professional skills; encourage employment of persons with disabilities in appropriate jobs and appropriate working conditions; prohibiting discrimination against persons with disabilities, in accordance with the law; equal rights and obligations; gender equality of persons with disabilities.

On the basis of the law, the Rulebook on closer conditions, criteria and standards for carrying all the measures and the activities in professional rehabilitation was adopted during year 2009.

Also, the Steering Committee of the National Employment Agency adopted the Rulebook on methods and criteria for the implementation of active labour market of a persons with disabilities.

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### **Form C                      Technical requirements and relevant information**

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Article 13,  
paragraph 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:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2024

dd/mm/yyyy

to:

31/12/2024

dd/mm/yyyy

#### **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:**

In accordance with Article 7 of the Ottawa Convention, the Ministry of Defense and the Serbian Armed Forces possess antipersonnel mines in quantities of 3.134 pieces, for training of personnel and testing of protective equipment, which are kept in ammunition warehouses under supervising, in accordance with the technical requirements defined by the Protocol.

#### **ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:**

Training of SAF members in proper and safe handling of mines and explosive ordnance within the armaments of the SAF is realized based on existing rules and instructions, aligned with the provisions of the Protocol.

## AMENDED PROTOCOL II

### Form D

### Legislation

Article 13,  
paragraph 4 (d)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
Depositary [...] on [...]:

(d) legislation related to this Protocol;”

*Remark:*

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2024

dd/mm/yyyy

to:

31/12/2024

dd/mm/yyyy

#### LEGISLATION:

The Serbian Armed Forces consistently apply procedures defined in the Amended Protocol II, and there are no changes compared to the previous reporting period.

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### **Form E**                      **International technical information exchange, cooperation on mine clearance, technical cooperation and assistance**

Article 13,  
paragraph 4 (e)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
Depositary [...] on [...]:

(e) measures taken on international technical information exchange, on  
international cooperation on mine clearance, and on technical cooperation  
and assistance;”

*Remark:*

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2024

dd/mm/yyyy

to: 31/12/2024

dd/mm/yyyy

#### **INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE:**

The Serbian Mine Action Centre retains vast expertise in mine clearance and cluster munitions clearance, in particular as regards survey, project tasks developing, quality control and governing of mine clearance and cluster munitions clearance project tasks.

#### **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON MINE CLEARANCE:**

The Serbian Mine Action Centre achieves international cooperation with numerous subjects in the field of mine action.  
Cooperation with the ITF, after the foundation of the SMAC, ITF strongly supported the SMAC at first providing donations for training of personnel, technical equipping and survey of the mine suspected area, and in 2003 started funding our projects for humanitarian demining.  
ITF and the SMAC signed the Memorandum of Understanding which further enhances cooperation between the SMAC and ITF.  
SMAC also cooperates with the International Civil Defence Organization under the Memorandum of Understanding.  
In order for the SMAC to create an effective system for information management in mine action, in August 2022, the Donation Agreement has been signed between the GICHD and SMAC, whereas the SMAC will be implementing IMSMA Core over a project period of 1 year. In March 2023, the GICHD visited SMAC to hold a workshop with relevant stakeholders to better understand the context and the requirements of SMAC with the aim of defining and planning the next steps of their IMSMA Core Implementation.

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SMAC is continuing its work on implementation of IMSMA Core and establishment of a centralized database aimed at improving data quality, accessibility, and sharing at SMAC and with external stakeholders, as well as bringing informed decisions when it comes to prioritization and planning of activities. In early 2024, the SMAC and GICHD began work on the first version of the new database - data cleaning, migration and designing data entry forms.

In the period from April 8 to 16, 2024, in Belgrade, 1 SMAC representative and 1 representative of Serbian demining company attended Regional Mine Action Managers Course for South Caucasus countries, organized by the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).

In the period from July 8 to 19, 2024, in Spietz, 2 SMAC representatives attended Mine Action Managers Course, organized by the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).

### **TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE:**

The Serbian Mine Action Centre is willing to share experience and lessons learned from the ongoing and completed operations.

Based on the Conclusion of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, on July 18, 2023, the Ministry of Defense as the transferor and the Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia as transferee of property, completed handover of the former Military complex "Velika Moštanica", which was included in the Master plan of the Serbian Army.

The "Velika Moštanica" military complex is located in Belgrade and consists of 16 buildings on an area of 3 hectares. It is planned that the military complex with classrooms and premises, as well as training grounds within the complex, among other things, will be used for organizing and conducting EOD training courses and EORE courses in accordance with IMAS standards. Also, the existing buildings and training grounds within the complex provide the opportunity to work on the development and testing of new technologies and innovations in mine action.

in collaboration with the UK based DRAKON Group, delivers IMAS EOD/IEDD training courses. In 2024, these courses have been attended by 52 trainees from 24 different countries (Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, Djibouti, Portugal, Iraq, Croatia, Serbia, UK, France, Ethiopia, DR Congo, Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Ireland, Nepal, the Netherlands, Colombia, Hungary, Canada, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Switzerland).

## CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

## AMENDED PROTOCOL II

Form F

### Other relevant matters

Article 13,  
paragraph 4 (f)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary [...] on [...]:

(f) other relevant matters.”

*Remark:*

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2024  
dd/mm/yyyy

to: 31/12/2024  
dd/mm/yyyy

**OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS:**

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## AMENDED PROTOCOL II

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

Article 11,  
paragraph 2,

“2. Each High Contracting Party undertakes to provide information to the database on mine clearance established within the United Nations System, especially information concerning various means and technologies of mine clearance, and lists of experts, expert agencies or national points of contact on mine clearance.”

*Remark:*

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2024

dd/mm/yyyy

to:

31/12/2024

dd/mm/yyyy

#### MEANS AND TECHNOLOGIES OF MINE CLEARANCE:

The following methods have been employed in Serbia for SMAC projects to release areas known or suspected to contain mines:

- Manual demining
- Mechanical demining
- Canine demining

#### LISTS OF EXPERTS AND EXPERT AGENCIES:

Bojan Glamočlija, Director- Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia, Vojvode Toze 31, +381 11 30 45 280, bojan.glamoclija@czrs.gov.rs

#### NATIONAL POINTS OF CONTACT ON MINE CLEARANCE:


Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia: czrs@czrs.gov.rs



No: 558-1/2025

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, Geneva Branch, and has the honor to transmit herewith the updated information in accordance with Article 7, Paragraph 2, of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, covering the previous calendar year, i.e. the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, Geneva Branch, the assurances of its highest consideration.

  
Geneva, 12 May 2025

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs  
GENEVA

**REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

**UPDATED INFORMATION PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 7, PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

**SUBMITTED 31 APRIL 2025**

**1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024**

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

As of 1 April 2025, there is 1 known area in the Republic of Serbia suspected to contain antipersonnel mines totalling **268,100 square metres\***. See Annex II for complete list of the area. Area suspected to contain antipersonnel mines remains in 1 village in the Municipality of Bujanovac as follows:

*Summary of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines as of 1 April 2024*

Municipality	Village	Number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines	Number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines	Total number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines	Amount of area known to contain anti-personnel mines(square metres)	Amount of area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines(square metres)	Total amount of area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines(square metres)
	Ravno Bučje	/	1	1	/	268,100	268,100
Bujanovac							
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>268,100</b>	<b>268,100*</b>

**\*Please note that the Republic of Serbia is facing with a problem of newly discovered mine suspected areas in the Bujanovac Municipality. In October 2019, in the territory of the Bujanovac Municipality, at the request of representatives of local self-government, the Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia (SMAC)**

conducted survey and marking of locations suspected to be contaminated by groups of mines. These are locations where forest fires occurred (in August 2021, too), and according to eyewitnesses, explosions could be heard in several places after the fire broke out, indicating the existence of mines in these areas. Representatives of SMAC and Emergency Management Staff of the Municipality of Bujanovac, visited the sites and interviewed local residents, local community representatives, fire-fighters, as well as police and military representatives. Furthermore, mine suspected areas have been marked in order to clearly and visually warn of mine danger, as well as to ban the entry of population into mine suspected area. Mine warning signs have been posted in the areas of possible access to mined areas (roads, paths and other areas where movement of people is expected).

Given that the areas suspected to be contaminated with mines are located in the Municipality of Bujanovac, which is an area with multi-ethnic population, the whole area has been visibly marked with “Stop Mines” signs in Serbian and Albanian languages.

SMAC has developed and submitted non-technical survey project to ITF Enhancing Human Security, and transferred the funds that the Serbian Government allocated for 2023 and 2024 demining operations in Bujanovac, in order for ITF to match these funds with available donor funds, so that this project can be implemented. Implementation of non-technical survey project of Bujanovac Municipality for which Serbia in March 2022 requested previous extension request in order to gather necessary information to design a work plan and project with greater certainty the amount of areas, the size of each area and the amount of time matched with a detail budget that would be required to complete Serbia’s Article 5 obligations is in progress. Currently, international instructor in the field of non –technical survey is conducting training for SMAC representatives and survey team that will be engaged on this project.

The non-technical survey project includes mixed survey team (Serbian and Albanian team of 5 surveyors), which will be fully trained and equipped to conduct required tasks. These activities will be supervised and monitored by SMAC and in cooperation with the local authorities. The project will take up to 1 year and will focus on the areas where fire forests occurred and explosions could be heard, but will also include all the other areas in Bujanovac where the existence of other mine indicators might be reported. During this period, technical survey projects will be developed, as well as land release projects for the assessed areas. Simultaneously with survey activities, MRE activities will be conducted in all 59 villages of the Municipality of Bujanovac. Upon completion of this project, SMAC will have a clear picture of the contamination, and an updated work plan for the remaining mined area.

Having in mind inadequate financial resources, the remaining area to be cleared, and its characteristics, unregistered mine contaminated areas, newly identified mine suspected areas for which a non - technical survey project needs to be completed in order to design a work plan and project with greater certainty the amount of areas, the size of each area and the amount of time matched with a detail budget that will be required to complete Serbia’s Article 5 obligations, in March 2024, Serbia submitted a fourth request for an extension of the deadline for fulfilling of its mine clearance obligations under the Convention for a period of 2-years (31 December 2024-31 December 2026). The request for the extension until December 31, 2026, was granted at the Fifth Review Conference (5RC) of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction, which took place in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 25 to 29 November 2024.

In 2024, the Government of Serbia allocated around 260,000 EUR from the state budget for demining operations.

These funds were matched through ITF Enhancing Human Security with available donor funds (the US and Republic of Korea donation). One project by SMAC was implemented in the Municipality of Bujanovac, total area of 122,200 sqm, with 1 UXO found and destroyed.

The Republic of Serbia remains committed to the completion of the Article 5 obligations, in order to primarily provide safety of local population, safe exploitation of woods, safe use of road communications, environmental protection, as well as reduction of fire risks.

SMAC, as a national mine action coordinating authority has requested from the Serbian Government to continue to allocate funds in the years to follow. Despite the economic and overall situation, the Serbian Government has taken ownership of the problem, by continuous allocating of funds for demining operations. However, international support is needed in order to solve the overall mine clearance problem.

The Serbian Government has allocated around 221,000 EUR for demining operations in 2025. These funds have been transferred to ITF to match the funds with donor funds (the US and the Republic of Korea donations). SMAC developed projects for the remaining known contamination totalling 268,100 sqm, which will be implemented in 2025, in addition to non-technical survey project covering previously unknown contamination, which is also planned to be implemented in 2025.

*Summary of projections for the amount of area (square metres) suspected to contain anti-personnel mines to be released 2025-2026*

2025	Areas	1
	Area	268,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>Areas</b>	<b>1*</b>
	<b>Area</b>	<b>268,100* + newly identified mine contaminated areas</b>

\*Newly discovered mine suspected areas in the Bujanovac Municipality have not been indicated in the table, since the scope of it is yet to be determined.

Project for non – technical survey of newly discovered mine suspected areas in Bujanovac is in SMAC's 2025 work plan adopted by the Serbian government.

Upon completion of this project, SMAC will have a clear picture of the contamination, upon which an updated work plan for the remaining contamination could be provided.

In addition to demining operations (around 221,000 EUR), the Serbian State Budget supports the on-going work of the SMAC – salaries of the staff, running costs (electricity, water, heating), office and consumption material costs, fuel costs, maintenance of vehicles, costs of the SMAC staff insurance – as well as survey activities, development of adequate project tasks for demining/clearance of locations confirmed to be contaminated by mines, cluster munitions and other UXO, follow-up of the implementation of project tasks and conduct of demining quality assurance and quality control. On an annual basis, from the Serbian State Budget is allocated around 590.000 EUR for the work of the SMAC in addition to 221.000 EUR for demining operations.

The Republic of Serbia carries out a number of efforts to ensure that the civilians from affected communities are not injured by mines, cluster munitions and other UXO including through the following methods:

**-Marking;**

The whole area suspected to be contaminated with various types of mines has been visibly marked with “STOP UXO” signs in Serbian and Albanian languages, given that it is an area with multiethnic population. Areas contaminated with cluster munitions, air bombs – rockets and other UXO, have been also marked correspondingly. Marking is conducted by the Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC) and within its regular activities the SMAC periodically visits contaminated locations making sure that these signs remain emplaced.

**-Risk education;**

Locals of the affected communities are being informed about demining activities through a number of means and media.

Mine risk education has been conducted in schools and affected communities. In accordance with the IMAS, during demining operations, evacuation of people from houses, shops and other communal locations located within the zone of demining works is conducted. Suspension of traffic on the roads within the zone of demining operations is conducted, too. In relation to that, the SMAC coordinates activities with local authorities, school authorities and other relevant state bodies (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Transport), local media means in communities where demining operations are conducted.

The following methods have been employed in Serbia to release areas suspected to contain mines:

- Non-technical survey
- Technical survey
- Clearance
- Mechanical demining
- Canine demining

In Serbia, an initial survey which includes collection of data and analysis of available documentation on mine emplacement is employed, as well as a non - technical survey (NTS), which follows after an analysis of previously collected data, conditions in the field, statements by local population, hunters, foresters, people dealing with exploitation of wood, representatives of Civil Protection and Police, amongst others. One significant indicator has been data on accidents that have occurred.

Non – technical survey determines borders of the suspected area, coordinates of the location, type of mines and other UXO, allocation of land, impact on environment.

Technical survey is employed to additionally collect information by technical methods on a suspected area and in case when the data collected by a non – technical survey are not sufficient for suspected areas to be declared hazardous or safe. Technical survey is done by the combination of several methods - manual detection by metal detectors and visually. Manual detection is conducted in prospections. The scheme and dimensions of a prospection depend on land configuration, and all in accordance with the IMAS.

Clearance is conducted in accordance with the IMAS. It is done by a manual method at the depth of 20 cm. Apart from a manual method, demining machines can be used, as well as dogs.

The size of the area to be cleared is determined on the basis of processed data which have been collected by a non-technical survey.

There is equal access to employment for qualified women and men in survey and clearance. During survey and community liaison activities, women, men and children are consulted.

In 2024, there were no demining accidents in the Republic of Serbia.

Priority is to demine those areas which directly affect the local population. There are mine contaminated areas close to the settlement where the locals stopped cultivating their land due to fear of mines. Demining will contribute to an increase of safety of local population, provide possibilities for safe exploitation of forest, cattle grazing and picking of mushrooms, which are one of the main sources of an income of local population.

As regards in-country national platform for dialogue, SMAC closely cooperates with the Bujanovac local authorities and other relevant stakeholders, in particular Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence, as well as Embassies of donor countries.

In 2024, SMAC staff attended the following courses:

In the period from April 8 to 16, 2024, in Belgrade, 1 SMAC representative and 1 representative of Serbian demining company attended Regional Mine Action Managers Course for South Caucasus countries, organized by the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).

In the period from July 8 to 19, 2024, in Spietz, 2 SMAC representatives attended Mine Action Managers Course, organized by the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).

Pursuant to Article 35 of the Law on Ministries, SMAC conducts expert works in the field of humanitarian demining related, among others, to educating populations of mine/ERW risk.

Given that SMAC is the only institution responsible for conducting training in RE, SMAC has developed its own program for recognizing explosive remnants of war in accordance with IMAS and submitted it to the Ministry of Education for verification, which verified it in March 2021.

The purpose of the SMAC training is to build national capacities to educate trainees (members of local self-governments, civil protection, hunters and construction workers engaged in excavation works in the ERW contaminated areas) in the field of mine action and to enable them to improve knowledge and ability to recognize ERW in the Republic of Serbia. In addition to SMAC staff, who will be engaged as trainers, experts from the Ministry of Interior will also be engaged, so that different aspects and training modules, among others, the basics of ERW recognition, international mine action standards, medical aspect, etc. will be covered. In relation to that, the SMAC coordinates activities with local authorities, school authorities and other relevant state bodies (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Transport), local media means in communities where demining operations are conducted.

Local at-risk populations are being informed about demining activities through a number of means and media. Mine risk education was conducted in schools and local communities. In accordance with the IMAS, during demining operations, evacuation of people from houses, shops and other communal locations located within the zone of demining works is conducted. Suspension of traffic on the roads within the zone of demining operations is conducted. Accordingly, given that in Serbia, the areas suspected to be contaminated with mines are located in the Municipality of Bujanovac, which is an area with multi-ethnic population, the whole area has been visibly marked with "Stop Mines" signs in Serbian and Albanian languages. During survey and community liaison activities, women, men and children are consulted. In addition, there is equal access to employment for qualified women and men in survey and clearance.

New Decree on Protection against ERW is about to be adopted by the Government – it was developed by SMAC and Ministry of Interior. This decree will introduce land release concept, not defined in the former decree, and also the need for development of national standards, which have not been developed in Serbia so far. In the meantime, standards, i.e., 3 chapters land release, glossary and quality management, have been developed within NPA Project Enhancing Quality Management Systems of National Mine Action Authorities and Centers in Western Balkans in late 2023.

#### **F: Technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines**

Please note that the areas in the Municipality of Bujanovac are contaminated with groups of mines of an unknown origin and types having been emplaced in accordance with no particular pattern and without any minefield records of it.

The Republic of Serbia has no additional information on the technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines. See the report submitted in 2021 for information that has already been provided by the Republic of Serbia.

#### **I. Cooperation and Assistance**

The Republic of Serbia is a State Party, which is not in a position to provide financial assistance, but it is able to share experience and lessons learned from the on-going and completed operations as concerns mine survey/clearance and training.

SMAC retains vast expertise in mine clearance, in particular as regards survey, project tasks developing, and quality control and governing of demining project tasks.

SMAC and UK based DRAKON Group have signed the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Cooperation and EOD Training. In 2024, in the Serbian Mine Action Centre Innovation and Educational Park, the EOD Level 1,2, 3, 3+ courses have been attended by 52 trainees from 24 different countries (Burundi, Uganda, Kenia, Djibouti, Portugal, Iraq, Croatia, Serbia, UK, France, Ethiopia, DR Congo, Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Ireland, Nepal, the Netherlands, Columbia, Hungary, Canada, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Switzerland).

In order for SMAC to create an effective system for information management in mine action, in August 2022, the Donation Agreement has been signed between the GICHD and SMAC.

In 2024, SMAC continued its work on implementation of IMSMA Core and establishment of a centralized database aimed at improving data quality, accessibility, and sharing at SMAC and with external stakeholders, as well as bringing informed decisions when it comes to prioritization and planning of activities. In early 2024, the work was focused on data migration and data cleaning, resulting in IMSMA Core Version 1 being presented to the SMAC.

Furthermore, the focus is to incorporate IMSMA Core to Non - Technical Survey project which is in progress.

SMAC representatives participated at the Third International Mine Action Conference on "Mitigating the Environmental Impact of Landmines: Mobilizing Resources for a Safe and Green Future", which was held in Azerbaijan in May 2024, organized by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

SMAC representatives participated at the European Regional Conference on Advancing Victim Assistance and Cooperation, which was held in Ljubljana in August 2024, in the organization of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, with the financial support of the European Union and technical support of the Implementation Support Unit of the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).

In the organization of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre and the Amputee Organization "UDAS", with the support of the Government of the Republic of Srpska, in November 2024, in the Administrative Center of the Government of the Republic of Srpska in Banja Luka, SMAC representatives attended a regional meeting which was held within the preparations for the Fifth Review Conference.

SMAC representatives participated at the Ukraine Mine Action Conference UMAC 2024, which was held in the organization of Switzerland and Ukraine in Lausanne, in October 2024.

At the invitation of the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Belgrade, SMAC Director, participated as a panelist at the World Urban Forum side event entitled "Clearing the Path for Post-Conflict Recovery: Innovations and Challenges in Demining", which was held in November in 2024 in Cairo, Egypt, organized by the Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA).

In November 2024, Director of the “World Without Mines” Foundation, visited the SMAC Innovation and Educational Park. The reason for her coming was to visit two participants of the international explosive ordnance disposal training – advanced theory of explosives EOD 3+, citizens of the Democratic Republic of Congo, whose training was financed by this Foundation.

SMAC representatives participated at the Innovation Session on Artificial Intelligence for Mine Action which was held in the organization of the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in October 2024, in Geneva, Swiss Confederation.

**Annex II: Areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines as of 1 April 2025, and the estimated date of completion**

Municipality	Village	Longitude	Latitude	Area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (square meters)	Type and quantity of anti-personnel mines	Estimated period when mines were emplaced	Estimated date of completion (year-end)
Bujanovac	Ravno Bučje	21°47'16''E	N 42°35'22''	268,100	Groups of mines of unknown type and quantity	2000-2001	2025 -2026
<b>Total</b>	<b>1*</b>			<b>268,100* +newly identified mine contaminated area</b>			

\*Newly discovered mine suspected areas in the Bujanovac Municipality have not been indicated in the table, since the scope of it is yet to be determined. Upon the provision of funds for field operations, we expect the commencement of the assessment of the previously unrecorded anti-personnel mine contamination in the course of 2024 (non – technical survey project accompanied with MRE in all villages of the Bujanovac Municipality).

Upon completion of this assessment, SMAC will have a clear picture of the contamination, and an updated work plan for the remaining contamination could be provided.

**Annex III: Areas released, 1 January 2024-31 December 2024**

Municipality	Village	Longitude	Latitude	Cancelled area (square meters)	Reduced area (square meters)	Cleared area (square meters)	Total area released (square meters)	Number of anti-personnel mines destroyed	Number of other explosive items destroyed
Bujanovac	Ravno Bučje	21°47'16"E	42°35'22" N	/	/	122.200	122.200	/	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>122.200</b>	<b>122.200</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>1</b>

**REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

**UPDATED INFORMATION PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 7, PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE  
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-  
PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

**SUBMITTED 30 APRIL 2025**

**1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024**

**FORM G Victims assistance**

**In line with Action #30 of the Siem Reap - Angkor Action plan:** The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia is designated as the Governmental body in charge of the integration of victims assistance, and undertakes activities aimed at supporting victims. The Department for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities and the Department for the veterans-disabled Protection were formed as bodies directly responsible for the activity of assisting persons with disabilities.

Serbia has adopted Action Plan in the period from 2022 to 2024, for implementation Strategies for improvement of positions of person with disability in the Republic of Serbia for period of time from 2020 to 2024 , with the goal of promotion and improvement of the overall social and economic position of persons with disabilities and their equal participation in society. In order to monitor the achieved results and assess the success of the implementation of measures and activities, all bodies in charge of their implementation are obliged to prepare reports that they deliver to the occasional working body of the Government - the Council for Persons with Disabilities, through the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs.

The results of the implementation of the Action Plan are reported at the end of each calendar year. These reports are prepared in order to be able to analyze the achieved results and in relation to those results, an assessment of the needs of persons with disabilities is carried out, in order to be able to point out the holders who until then did not sufficiently implement the planned activities and correct further work to achieve the planned goals. In 2023, the Report for 2022 was drawn up with the results presented, based on previously established indicators.

In 2022, a public discussion was launched for the Action Plan in the period from 2023 to 2024, for implementation Strategies for improvement of positions of person with disability in the Republic of Serbia for period of time from 2020 to 2024. On December 28, 2022, the Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs adopted the Conclusion, which determined the Program of Public Discussion on the Action Plan proposal, and it was held in the period from December 30, 2022 to January 18, 2023., after which the Report and Proposal of the Action Plan for 2023-2024 were prepared.

At the end of 2023, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs initiated the process of drafting a new strategic document and a corresponding action plan. In response to the Ministry's invitation, and in addition to the logistical and financial support provided by the UN Population Fund in Serbia, representatives of associations of persons with disabilities, as well as representatives of relevant state bodies and institutions whose scope of work is expected to contribute to improving the position of persons with disabilities, actively participated in the preparation process.

At its session held on January 16, 2025, the Government of the Republic of Serbia, upon the proposal of the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, Department for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities, adopted the Strategy for the Improvement of the Position of Persons with Disabilities in Serbia for the period 2025–2030, along with the first three-year Action Plan for its implementation, covering the period from 2025 to 2027.

This strategic framework represents a continuation of the Ministry's and the Department's ongoing efforts to improve the overall social and economic position of persons with disabilities and to create the conditions for their equal participation in society throughout the Republic of Serbia.

The purpose of the Strategy is to define the goals, measures, and activities that will help integrate the social model and human rights-based approach into all measures that affect the position of persons with disabilities.

The general goal of the Strategy is to improve the position of persons with disabilities to ensure the full enjoyment of all rights and equal participation in community life. This is to be achieved through inclusion in all areas of social life on an equal basis, with full respect for personal dignity, independence, freedom of choice, and individuality.

**In line with Action #31 of the Siem Reap - Angkor Action plan:** The Republic of Serbia strives to achieve goals through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute to the full, equal and effective participation of EO victims in society. Accordingly, in the Republic of Serbia, the Law on the Rights veterans, war invalids, civilian war invalids and members of their family ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 18/2020), and the Strategy for Improving the Position of Persons with disability, 2020-2024, are in force. The strategy recognized their equal rights with other disabled people (rights of war disabled soldiers, peacetime military disabled persons, as well as civilian disabled persons). In addition to the above-mentioned Law, the Republic of Serbia has adopted 14 Rulebook for the purpose of more detailed regulation of the obtained of rights. Also, the Republic of Serbia acceded the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2009.

According to the Law on Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities, war disabled soldiers, peacetime military disabled persons and civilian military disabled persons have the status of disabled persons. This law is based on the principles governing the protection of human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, the inclusion of all persons with disabilities, on an equal basis, in all spheres of social life - in accordance with their professional abilities.

The Law on Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities was adopted in our country and entered into force on May 23, 2009, while amendments to the law were adopted in 2013 and 2022. The provisions of the law concern the obligation of an employer who employs fifty (50) or more workers, and who is obliged to hire two persons with disabilities and one person with disabilities for each subsequent 50 employees.

This law is based on the principles of: respect for human rights and dignity of persons with disability; equal inclusion of persons with disabilities in all spheres of social life basis - in accordance with professional skills; encourage the employment of persons with disabilities in appropriate jobs and appropriate working conditions; ban discrimination of persons with disabilities, in accordance with the law; equal rights and obligations; gender equality of persons with disabilities.

In December 2024, a Cooperation Agreement was signed between the Serbian Mine Action Centre and the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, aiming to enhance collaboration in the field of mine action, with a particular focus on assistance to victims of explosive ordnance.

The purpose of this Agreement is to establish a framework for mutual cooperation and define the conditions and methods for providing assistance to victims of explosive ordnance. This includes improving and strengthening the capacity for care and rehabilitation to meet both the immediate and long-term needs of victims, as well as providing support to their families and communities affected by explosive devices.

This initiative is part of a broader effort to improve the living standards of victims and increase their socio-economic inclusion. The Agreement is based on relevant laws and international conventions to which the Republic of Serbia is a party, as well as on previous memoranda of cooperation with other partners, all with the goal of raising awareness of the importance of assistance and support for those affected by explosive ordnance.

Thanks to this Agreement, the good practices achieved through a project financially supported by ITF donors—under which victims of anti-personnel mines received support—will be continued.

**In line with Action #32 of the Siem Reap - Angkor Action plan:** In accordance with the Law on Rights veterans, war invalids, civilian war invalids and members of their family, this Ministry has a database which gathers various information of beneficiaries. According to the database, and according to data from December 2024, the data records include: 516 civilian war invalids, 205 family members of deceased civilian war invalids and family members of civilian war victims, i.e. 120 deceased civilian war invalids, as well as 85 members of this family of civilian victims of war. All persons registered were injured by anti-personnel mines or explosive remnants of war.

The Republic of Serbia is making efforts to find donor funds for the creation of a new database or updating the old database, with the aim of improving the records keeping of beneficiaries of rights.

**In line with Action #34 of the Siem Reap - Angkor Action plan:** According to the Law on the Rights of Rights veterans, war invalids, civilian war invalids and members of their family ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 18/2020), civilian invalids of war have, in addition to medical protection, the right to services expressed through the right to various types of benefits such as personal disability benefits; care allowance; free and preferential driving right on identification.

**In line with Action #35 of the Siem Reap - Angkor Action plan:** The state supports the development of services in the field of the Rights of Soldiers, Disabled Veterans, Civilian Disabled Veterans and Family Members, social protection and employment, so that rural areas are included, and with the aim of increasing the availability of services, so that in all units of local self-government in Serbia, there are services for the protection of veterans and the disabled, i.e. services for social protection and employment services, which civil war disabled persons can contact in order to obtain their rights and improve the position of persons with disabilities.

To raise awareness among EO victims on their rights and available services, an active approach is being taken to improve the flow of information at the intersectoral level as well as the relationship between the victim and the competent service. Therefore, stronger coordination is being planned between representatives of associations dealing with EO victims and the Government.

The Republic of Serbia has mine victims in areas under its jurisdiction.

### **Medical care (health care)**

According to the Law on the Rights veterans, war invalids, civilian war invalids and members of their family ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 18/2020), civilian invalids of war are entitled to several different benefits:

- orthopedic allowance;
- Medical care and financial compensation related to medical care;
- spa center recovery;
- professional rehabilitation and
- financial assistance during professional rehabilitation.

The Republic of Serbia aims to improve the availability of services, constantly assesses the needs of victims, health education, employment activities, development and poverty reduction with goals to be achieved through the implementation of national policies, plans and legislative frameworks, as well as potential assistance from various international organizations.

### **Physical rehabilitation**

According to the Law on the Rights of Rights veterans, war invalids, civilian war invalids and members of their family ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 18/2020), civilian invalids of war have the right to spa climatic recovery.

### **SPA – CLIMATE RECOVERY INCLUDES:**

- 1) use of services on full board basis, which means accommodation on the basis of full board (breakfast and dinner according to the principle of the buffet table and lunch classic service), in comfortable single and double rooms with bathroom, with included tourist tax and insurance of the beneficiaries;
- 2) health care services that include examination by a specialist doctor, diagnosis and necessary therapy (laboratory analysis, balneotherapy, physical therapy);
- 3) inpatient-hospital treatment using natural healing factors, i.e. thermo-mineral and mineral waters, which are specific in their composition and chemical properties for the treatment of diseases of the subject party and the daily use of pools with mineral water.

The Republic of Serbia aims to achieve the referral of the largest possible number of civilian war invalids to spa-climate recovery with the intention that war civilian invalids (who were treated for the following diseases: stomach diseases, intestinal diseases, liver diseases,

diseases of the gall bladder and bile ducts, kidney diseases and urinary tract diseases, diseases of the locomotor apparatus, diseases of metabolism and endocrine diseases, diseases of the peripheral and central nervous system and coronary diseases) achieve the best possible medical and physical rehabilitation.

**In line with Action #36 of the Siem Reap - Angkor Action plan:** The Republic of Serbia made maximum efforts to support relevant activities related to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by experts in health, rehabilitation, social services, education, employment, gender equality, including mine victims.

Efforts have been made to remove barriers, such as improved measures for gender equality and anti-discrimination, social protection services in remote and rural areas with the aim of increasing the quality of the provision of social protection services. The state supports the development of services in the field of veterans-disabled protection, social protection and employment, so that rural areas are included, and with the aim of increasing the availability of services.

The Government of Serbia finances project activities of associations of persons with disabilities, war invalids' associations, as well as associations of civilian war victims. Through these activities, the associations organize training sessions aimed at promoting the strengthening of the capacities for both women and men, as well as improving the psychological and social well-being of survivors. Workshops and educational programs include events attended by the war veteran and disability community together with other members of society, thereby providing psychosocial support.

**In line with Action #37 of the Siem Reap - Angkor Action plan:** The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs announced two tenders in 2024, namely the Tender for the submission of project proposals in the field of veterans and disabled protection in 2024, for the purpose of financing programs of public interest implemented by NGO in the field of veterans and disabled protection. According to the first tender, 87 NGO projects with various activities were financed in order to improve the field of veterans and disabled protection, while 95 projects were financed according to the second tender.

The total value of projects financed from budget funds in the first tender was around 300,000.00 euros, while in the second tender it was around 387,000.00 euros.

**In line with Action #40 of the Siem Reap - Angkor Action plan:** Continuous and regular financial resources are provided by the budget of the Republic of Serbia.

In addition to the financial resources provided by the budget of the Republic of Serbia, the inclusion of potential support from various international organizations is planned for financing project activities of associations of persons with disabilities, war invalids' associations, and associations of civilian war victims. The goal is to secure funding for a greater number of project activities carried out by these associations and individuals with disabilities.

In 2024, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs cooperated with around 200 domestic NGOs, and in addition to them, numerous individuals and institutions were involved in helping the victims in terms of medical care, psychological rehabilitation and assistance, as well as social reintegration and professional and economic rehabilitation.

Related to this, in 2022, the first international project victim assistance was launched in cooperation with the Mine Action Centre Republic of Serbia, and which was realized thanks to donor funds from the Republic of Korea, which were placed through the ITF International Foundation for Strengthening Human Security. This project envisages the rehabilitation and medical care of the victims. The Ministry of Labour, Employment of Veterans and Social Affairs, the Sector for Veterans and Disability Protection prioritized persons from the younger population from the Republic of Serbia who were sent to rehabilitation and medical care at the University Rehabilitation Institute Soča in Slovenia. As the entire process was evaluated by the users as multiple useful, we expect that the next selected users will be sent to rehabilitation. In addition to rehabilitation, which lasts two and a half weeks, this project also includes the replacement of orthopedic aids.

In 2025, new individuals are planned to be referred for rehabilitation within the framework of the project.

This project initiated the joint cooperation of the state institutions of the Republic of Serbia, the Mine Action Centre Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Labour, employment of veterans and social affaires. Realization of the project contributes to raising awareness for continuous support for the victims, as well as their family members.