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19 May 2023

ENGLISH only



Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Poland
to the Organization for Security
and Co-operation in Europe
in Vienna

No. 25/2023

The Permanent Mission of the Republic Poland to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in Vienna presents its compliments to all Delegations and Permanent Missions to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Center, and with reference to FSC.DEC/7/04 has the honour to transmit herewith the response to the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Land Mines and on Explosive Remnants of War for year 2022 as well as the other relevant information.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic Poland to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the all Delegations and Permanent Missions to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Center the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 19 May 2023



To:

**All Delegations and Permanent Missions to the OSCE in Vienna
The Conflict Prevention Center**

Vienna

**COVER PAGE¹
OF THE ANNUAL ARTICLE 7 REPORT**

NAME OF STATE [PARTY]: Poland

REPORTING PERIOD: 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022
(dd/mm/yyyy) (dd/mm/yyyy)

<p>Form A: National implementation measures: <input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2013)</p>	<p>Form F: Programme of APM destruction: <input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2017) <input type="checkbox"/> non applicable</p>
<p>Form B: Stockpiled anti-personnel mines: <input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2017) <input type="checkbox"/> non applicable</p>	<p>Form G: APM destroyed: <input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2013) <input type="checkbox"/> non applicable</p>
<p>Form C: Location of mined areas: <input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2013) <input type="checkbox"/> non applicable</p>	<p>Form H: Technical characteristics: <input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2013) <input type="checkbox"/> non applicable</p>
<p>Form D: APMs retained or transferred: <input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2017) <input type="checkbox"/> non applicable</p>	<p>Form I: Warning measures: <input type="checkbox"/> changed <input type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: yyyy) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> non applicable</p>
<p>Form E: Status of conversion programmes: <input type="checkbox"/> changed <input type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: yyyy) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> non applicable</p>	<p>Form J: Other Relevant Matters: <input type="checkbox"/> changed <input type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: yyyy) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> non applicable</p>

¹ Notes on using the cover page:

1. The cover page could be used as a complement to submitting detailed forms adopted at the [First and Second] Meetings of the States parties in instances when the information to be provided in some of the forms in an annual report is the same as it would be in past reports. That is, when using the cover page, only forms within which there is new information would need to be submitted.
2. The cover page could be used as a substitute for submitting detailed forms adopted at the [First and Second] Meetings of the States parties only if all of the information to be provided in an annual report is the same as in past reports.
3. If an indication is made on the cover sheet that the information to be provided with respect to a particular form would be unchanged in relationship to a previous year's form, the date of submission of the previous form should be clearly indicated.

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)**

REPORTING FORMATS

for Article 13 paragraph 4 and Article 11 paragraph 2

NAME OF THE HIGH
CONTRACTING PARTY: POLAND

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 28.03.2023

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF
CONTACT: Department of Security Policy

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Al. Szucha 23

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Poland

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(Organization, telephones, fax, e-mail)

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

YES

NO

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Partially, only the following forms:

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

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:

POLAND

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2022
dd/mm/yyyy

to: 31/12/2022
dd/mm/yyyy

INFORMATION TO THE ARMED FORCES:

All military personnel of the Polish Armed Forces is instructed and trained in the International Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflict including the rules set by the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its annexed Protocols. The relevant information in this regard is disseminated in the framework of:

- **military and postgraduate studies, defence policy studies, operational-tactical studies, operational-strategic studies and qualification courses dedicated for officer candidates, officers, military commanders, military personnel and legal advisors organized by relevant Military Universities and Academies;**
- **training, special and qualification courses for officers, non-commissioned officers, privates and civilian personnel realized in training centres of all armed services and in all military units;**
- **the routine process of improving professional qualifications of military personnel conducted by superiors and legal advisors in all military units;**
- **military exercises which require taking into account specific rules of the International Humanitarian Law norms and regulations.**

Training in international law of armed conflicts and protection of cultural heritage is an important element of the preparation process of personnel for the peacekeeping and stabilization missions. All mission members are obliged to attend such training before deployment.

Additionally, all soldiers and personnel deployed to the peacekeeping and stabilization missions take part in periodic training in the International Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflict including the rules set by Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its annexed Protocols

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INFORMATION TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION:

Civilian students obtain relevant information concerning International Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflict (including CCW and annexed Protocols) during optional or obligatory courses and training events organized by Polish Military Universities and Academies. The Polish Naval Academy organized an annual scientific conference “International Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflicts” (including CCW and annexed Protocols topics), the result of which was the publication of the monograph “International Humanitarian Law”.

Polish Red Cross is the Republic of Poland’s national society of the Red Cross in the understanding of the Geneva Conventions on the Protection of Victims of War of 12 August 1949 (JoL, item 171) and additional Protocols to the Conventions of 8 June 1977 (JoL 1992, item 175). It operates on the basis of the Act of 16 November 1964 on the Polish Red Cross (JoL, item 276) and the Statute (i.e. charter) enacted thereunder and approved by the Regulation of the Council of Ministers of 20 September 2011 (JoL of 2011, item 1284). The Republic of Poland appreciates the unique role of the PRC and its commitment to fulfilling the mission of preventing human suffering and mitigating its consequences, as well as protecting human dignity, without any discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, race, sex, religious beliefs or political convictions.

PRC runs a variety of different educational initiatives through which information to the civilian population, including information on any programs, courses or documentation to disseminate the CCW to non-military audiences is spread:

1. The ‘Exploring Humanitarian Law’ (EHL) programme created by the International Committee of the Red Cross is implemented in Poland through the collaboration between the Centre for Education Development (a subordinate unit of the MNE) with the Polish Red Cross, and with the MNE financial support.

On the basis of PRC there is an on-line course available for teachers, aimed to provide them with: 1) knowledge about the international humanitarian law of armed conflict; 2) practical skills to teach classes under the EHL with the use of materials developed by the PRC and made available on an e-learning platform.

2. Polish School of International Humanitarian Law

The School is a five-day course in international humanitarian law held annually and intended for three groups of recipients – law, international relations and political science students; students of uniformed academies, professional commissioned officers and representatives of the State Fire Service and the Police, and members and volunteers of the Polish Red Cross and other non-governmental organizations. An average of 30–35 participants are enrolled in each edition.

Knowledge of international humanitarian law is passed on to the participants in the form of lectures and presentations, and in practical classes – by working on case studies. The School’s lecturers include eminent scholars and practitioners in the field from military and civilian schools across the country.

3. Commission for the Dissemination of Humanitarian Law

A Program Council of the Centre for the Dissemination of International Human Law has operated since 1979 at the Main Board of the Polish Red Cross, later to be transformed into the Commission for the Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law. Since 2012 dr M. Marcinko of the Jagiellonian University has been the Commission’s serving

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Chairman. The Commission is composed of:

- **high-grade specialists – lawyers researching and teaching public international law;**
- **permanent representatives of the Ministries of the National Defence; Foreign Affairs; the Interior and Administration; Health; Culture and National Education; and State Fire Service and State Border Guard;**
- **Polish Red Cross employees and volunteers.**

The Commission's long term programme provides for contributing to the popularization of humanitarian law in Poland through, among others, publishing and educational activities. In terms of the programme and organization, the Commission's activities are closely tied to the activities of the Main Board of the PRC.

The Commission meets twice a year and holds remote meetings between the regular sessions.

Experts and other persons interested in the dissemination of international humanitarian law may be invited to the meetings.

4. Commission for the Protection of the Red Cross Emblem and its protection against misuse

The Commission for the Protection of the Red Cross Emblem was established in 1995 at the Main Board of the PRC. Since 2013, the Commission has been chaired by dr Magdalena Stefańska. The purpose of the Commission consists of intervening in the event of violations, both inside and outside the organization, of the rules protecting the Red Cross emblem. The Commission:

- **disseminates information through the media about the role of the Red Cross emblem and the need to protect the emblem, for the purpose of ingraining that information in public awareness**
- **coordinates the works of those responsible for protecting the emblem nationwide (provides information, instructions in the event of abuse, draft intervention letters and training materials) and plans and coordinates training courses for both PRC employees and volunteers**
- **edits documents and prepares publications relating to the protection of the emblem**
- **issues opinions on requests from institutions, companies and individuals for permission to use the emblem**
- **intervenes in the event of abuse or improper use of the emblem by institutions, companies, the media and individuals operating within the country in order to eliminate such abuse**

5. Participation in consultations of the European Group of Legal Advisors to National Societies

6. Classes in the scope of dissemination of international humanitarian law, inter alia at the Military Centre for Civic Education and the National Defence University of Warsaw

7. Classes for the 'NATO CIMIC Functional Specialist course'

8. Professor Bierzanek Competition

The competition is held by the Commission for the Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law in cooperation with the MFA. It can already boast of a long tradition (the 2018 edition will be the 21st). Every year a new edition gives the students and graduates of law, international relations and similar disciplines the opportunity to present their BA, MA and PhD papers to a wider community of specialists to win their appreciation and compete for the main prize.

9. International Humanitarian Law Library

The Bureau of the Main Board of the PRC is the house of Professor Marian Flemming International Humanitarian Law Library. The library's collections include approximately

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5000 titles – books and articles, brochures, reports, journals and conference reports, in a number of languages – mostly in English or French – as well as a video library of approximately 200 VHS tapes in three languages – Polish, English and French. The CD and DVD collections are also growing quickly and currently include more than 100 exhibits. The collections also include numerous photographs and slides documenting the activities of the PRC and the International Red–Cross Movement, as well as educational slides. Current activities consist in the acquisition of new volumes and registration and keeping records of inbound publications.

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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:

POLAND

Reporting for time period

from: **01/01/2022**

dd/mm/yyyy

to: **31/12/2022**

dd/mm/yyyy

MINE CLEARANCE PROGRAMMES:

Within reporting period the Polish Armed Forces did not take part in any mine clearance programmes.

REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES:

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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:

Poland

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2022
dd/mm/yyyy

to: 31/12/2022
dd/mm/yyyy

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE:

Within reporting period the Polish Armed Forces did not take part in any mine clearance programmes.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON MINE CLEARANCE:

Within reporting period the Polish Armed Forces did not take part in any mine clearance programmes.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE:

Within reporting period the Polish Armed Forces did not take part in any mine clearance programmes.

The Republic of Poland

OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

Reporting period: 2022

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.

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.

Please, find enclosed the report for 2022.

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.

- 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.

Please, find enclosed the cover page of the Annual Article 7 Report for 2022.

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

Refer to 7 and 8.(a).

- (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?

In our initial report which is available at the following link:

<https://geneva-s3.unoda.org/artvii-database-dump/Poland/2013.pdf>

we listed the legal measures that were introduced to implement the Convention in Poland (Form A, “National implementation measures”).

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

No, but as far as Polish citizens are concerned general regulations are applied. Mine/UXO survivors are entitled to the same standards of public healthcare as all other insured persons. Military casualties are entitled to medicine and orthopaedic equipment free of charge.

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

NO.

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

Poland has some capacities in this respect but any such engagement would have to be subject to a specific request and additional arrangements.

The Republic of Poland

OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

Reporting period: 2022

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?

Poland ratified PV on 26th September 2011 and in the following year it entered into force (26th March 2012).

Is your country considering doing so?

Refer to 1.

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

Refer to 1 and 2.

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

NO.

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

Poland has some capacities in this respect but any such engagement would have to be a subject to a specific request and additional arrangements.