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I REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË
PRANË ORGANIZATAVE
NDËRKOMBËTARE
VJENË

PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
TO THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS
VIENNA

Ref. 163

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to all Permanent Delegations and Missions to the OSCE and to the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, and in accordance with FSC.DEC/7/04, has the honour to provide the information on Anti-Personnel Mines for 2021.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Permanent Delegations and Missions to the OSCE and to the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre the assurances of its highest consideration. E. GJ.



**All Permanent Delegations and Missions to the OSCE
The OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre
VIENNA**

REPUBLIC OF



ALBANIA

**QUESTIONNAIRE
ON ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES**

(FSC.DEC/7/04)

OSCE

2022

OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE - 2021

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, Albania is a State Party to the Amended Protocol II of the CCW.

2. ***If yes: Albania has been a State Party to the Amended Protocol II of the CCW since 28th August 2002.***

If no:

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

N/A

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

Since April 2006, Albania has approved a new Law on the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mines Ban Convention, which imposes administrative and penal sanctions on any activity involving indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines.

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

N/A

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

No.

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?***

Albania has ratified the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel mines and on their destruction since 29th February 2000.

8. ***(a) If yes, please attaches 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.***

<http://www.unog.ch>

<https://geneva-s3.unoda.org/artvii-database-dump/Albania/2019.pdf>

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

N/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 April 2006, Albanian has approved a new Law on the implementation of the APM Ban Convention, which imposes administrative and penal sanctions on any activity prohibited for a State Party to the Antipersonnel-Mine Ban Convention undertaken by persons or on Albanian territory, and confirms the Minister of Defence as the authority in charge for all mine action activities in the country.

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

- There are three hospitals in the previously cluster munitions affected region: The Regional Hospital in Kukes town, the district hospitals in Has and Bajram Curri. The hospitals in Bajram Curri and Kukes have surgical capabilities The Kukes Hospital has been reconstructed during 2021. The first stop for cluster munitions survivors immediately following an accident was the village medical centre where first aid was provided and then transported to the hospital that was closest in proximity to the location of their accident. The victims in need of surgery were transported to Kukes hospital, where surgical capabilities are the most advanced in the region. For difficult cases requiring surgery and intensive care, patients were transported to the National Trauma Center in Tirana, usually by helicopter provided by government. Cluster munitions survivors require ongoing medical assistance, which they generally receive from the family doctors (GP) and/or nurses working in the village health centers or the district hospital closest in proximity to their residence. In the Medical University of Tirana, the study program for Physiotherapy continues in the Faculty of Medical Sciences. The medical staff are surgeons, anaesthetologists, etc. General Surgery is only available at Kukes Regional Hospital, or

the University Trauma Hospital in Tirana. Corrective surgery is available only at the University Trauma Hospital I in Tirana. This is sufficient for the time being considering the needs of the population. There is a Physiotherapy unit with specialized staff at Kukes, Regional Hospital The unit needs support with materials and expertise. The physiotherapy section of the University Hospital of Trauma.

Framework Law No. 93/2014 "On the Inclusion of and Access for People with Disabilities," was approved in line with the CRPD principles and definitions. During 2021 National Action Plan for Persons with Disability 2021-2025 has been approved by the Government with Decision Nr. 276, Date 12.05.2021. The plan was consulted with civil society and targets all categories of PWDs. Provision of quality social and health services for every person with disabilities and accessibility are addressed with specific measures. Ministry of Health and Social Protection gives support to Tirana Regional Council and Association for

Disability Rights Foundation to provide the service of wheelchair provision and adjustment, resulting in distributing about 700 wheelchairs a year across all the country. Although persons with disabilities benefit from the coverage of medical insurance, there is still lack of assistive equipment and technologies.

In order to receive disability benefits, the assessment of disability takes place. The overall reform of disability assessment, extending gradually at national level is in line with CRPD. A bio-psycho-social evaluation is conducted, to give a profile with the evaluation and social integrated services needed.

All (61) municipalities have a social plan, supported by UNDP, whereas they do not include comprehensive measures for Pwd. Community services and rehabilitation centers must be in place. In particular, in remote rural areas, there is a lack of social services, such as Kukes, Diber. During the COVID pandemic, increased needs of persons with disabilities were addressed by the health and social services in the territory. Moreover, UNDP, World Vision, Terre Des-Hommes etc. offered accessible services. Psycho-social service for Persons with Disabilities has been provided from Albanian Red cross for the elderly and persons with disabilities. Also the Albanian Red Cross conducted the training "Health in Emergency" in November 2021 needs of categories of PwD.

10. Does your country require assistance in mine clearance, stockpile destruction, mine

N/A

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

N/A

PART III

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?

Albania is a State Party to Protocol V of the CCW on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW).

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

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

Albania has received assistance in clearing and minimizing the effects of ERW and is continuing this process.

UXO Hotspots Contaminated areas:

The Albanian Government and the Ministry of Defence have outlined a Plan of Action for the elimination of Excess Ammunitions in Albania aiming to dispose all of its surplus stockpiled ammunition and to clear all the UXO/ERW hotspot areas.

The current number of dangerous UXO hotspots is at present reduced to 1 from initially 19 ones identified in 2011.

UXO Hotspot Jubë-Sukth, Durrës

NPA (Norwegian People Aids) deployed two clearance teams to the Jubë - Sukth UXO hotspot executing. The Clearance Operation started in 2017 and Phase 1 was completed on December 2018. NPA teams cleared a total of **388,185 square meters** in the **Phase I** of clearance.

The remaining **420,000 square meters** were left for clearance by the Albanian Armed Forces (AAF) Teams in Jubë - Sukth and is subject of the current operational clearance plan.

UXO Hotspot Jubë - Sukth, Durrës Phase 2

In 2019 Phase 2 began for the clearance of the remaining **420,000 square meters**. The clearing operation continues up to date.

UXO Hotspot Jubë - Sukth, Durrës (TD-HS-17 c) - Phase Two	
Total Estimated Area in sq. meters:	420,000 sq. meters
Total Cleared Area in sq. meters 31/12/2021:	58.165 sq. meters (13.8%)
Total Items Found 31/12/2021:	669 UXO items
Remaining area to be cleared:	361.835 sq. meters
Clearance organization	Albanian Armed Forces -Two Teams
Donor's	Albanian Ministry of Defense,

EOD Response to Callouts:

In addition to the UXO Hotspots Clearance, the EOD units of AAF perform the EOD response based on the request from police and local authorities which are classified as non-criminal act.

Physical Security & Stockpile Management (PSSM) Support:

With additional funding from the Department of Defense, the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) utilized the New Jersey National Guard through the State Partnership Program (SPP), and U.S. Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) to conduct EOD Level 2 training events with the AAF.

The US Department of Defense and the US EUCOM as part of Physical Security & Stockpile Management (PSSM) Program has provided on-going assistance for the improvement of physical security and safety upgrades at the Miraka and Engineering Battalion ammunition depot facilities Ministry of Defense's (MoD).

The Underwater Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) contamination problem in Albania.

We have a significant problem with underwater unexploded ordnance along the entire coast of Albania. The most significantly contaminated area is in Vlora Bay. Other areas, particularly in southern Albanian coast, like Saranda Bay, have also unexploded ordnance in its waters. Additional surveys need to be carried out in these areas.

Therefore, we require the support of the international organizations to clean up our coastal waters, and thus making them safer for our citizens.

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

As of June 2017, the AAF has engaged with an EOD platoon as part of Canadian contingent in NATO enhanced Forward Presence (e-FP) in Riga, Latvia with 21 military EOD personnel (4 officers and 17 NCO-s).

The total contribution of AAF from 2017 till 30 December 2021 has been 185 military personnel.