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PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF
ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

D-2207/022/2019

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe presents its compliments to the Permanent Delegations and Missions to the OSCE and to the OSCE Conflict Prevention Center, and has the honour to submit the reply of the Republic of Armenia to the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti- Personnel Mines for 2019.

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

Attachment: 3 pages.



Vienna, 30 May 2019

To the Permanent Delegations and Missions to the OSCE
OSCE Conflict Prevention Center

VIENNA

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

**OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES
2019**

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)?

Armenia has not yet signed the Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices, as amended on 3 May, 1996 due to unconstructive position of Azerbaijan not to join the Convention.

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

N/A

If no:

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

Armenia's accession to the Amended Protocol II is contingent upon the readiness of Azerbaijan to adhere to the Convention and comply with its regime.

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

Since signing of the 1994 tripartite ceasefire agreement Armenia has seized mining activities along the state borders with Azerbaijan. However, as a means to counter the offensive activities of Azerbaijan, mining activities have been conducted along some portions of the state border starting from April 2, 2016.

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

Armenia is interested in building of its demining capacities and modernization of existing equipment.

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

Within the possibilities of its engineer units the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia stand ready to extend assistance to other countries in their demining activities.

Humanitarian demining capacities in the field of identification and deactivation of self-made explosive devices are limited, however, the engineer units stand ready to assist within their capacities.

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?

Armenia has not signed yet the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. Armenia's accession to the Ottawa Convention, as it is in the above mentioned case of the CCW Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices, is contingent upon the readiness of Azerbaijan to adhere to the Convention and comply with its regime.

However, Armenia regularly participates in conferences and meetings within the framework of the above-mentioned international documents. Armenia reiterates its support to the Ottawa Convention and the CCW Amended Protocol II and its readiness to take measures on voluntary implementation of certain provisions of those international documents. Thus, in the spirit of transparency and confidence building Armenia on the voluntary basis provides annual information on anti-personnel landmines to the UN and the OSCE.

8. (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?

Since signing of the 1994 tripartite ceasefire agreement Armenia has not unilaterally conducted any mining activities. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia are not engaged in production, use or transfer to other countries of anti-personnel landmines. National standards of mine action have been defined by the Government Decree No. 454-N, dated April 23, 2014. In case of existence proper grounds for accession to the Convention, relevant legal acts will be elaborated within the framework of national legislation.

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

The National Center for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise of Armenia together with the ICRC jointly elaborates strategy of assistance to mine victims.

The victims are under the protection of the Government. They receive financial assistance, stationary medical and rehabilitation treatment. Medical treatment of victims under government contracts, as well as financing of prosthetic care are also ensured by the Government.

The National Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise implements projects on provision of legal assistance to mine victims, their inclusion in social programmes and their professional training. The Centre also seeks donor assistance

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

By the U.S. assistance the Republic of Armenia has established a national demining center. The Centre

needs assistance for modernizing its demining devices, in particular demining robots, armoured equipment, modern mine-detectors and equipment, systems of electronic destruction of improvised explosive devices of remote control and protective uniform which will reduce the risk of explosion while defusing mines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices.

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

The Republic of Armenia within its capacities stands ready to extend assistance to other countries in the field of humanitarian demining.

Assistance to other countries is also provided by the National Center for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise of Armenia which is designed, among other things, to train neighboring countries' engineers.

OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

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

Armenia has not yet signed the Convention on Conventional Weapons and its Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War.

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

In order to mitigate the risks and effects of explosive remnants of war the Ministry of Defense of Armenia conducts demining activities in border regions of Armenia, which have been theatre of military operations. Four regions of Armenia still face risk of ERW, namely Syunik, Tavush, Gegarkunik and Vayots Dzor. The overall size of affected territory is 17 000 000 sq.m. The population of the ERW affected territory is 35000.

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

The Republic of Armenia within its capacities stands ready to extend assistance to other countries. Currently Armenian demining specialists are engaged in providing humanitarian demining assistance to conflict affected population in Syria, in line with the UN GA Resolution A/RES/46/182 and in response to priority needs, identified by the 2018 Syria Arab Republic Humanitarian Response Plan. The humanitarian assistance mission aims at supporting removal of ERW as a life-saving action to contribute to the safety of civilians, including conflict affected Armenian communities, to raise their mine awareness and to improve their livelihood and the access to basic needs and services, as well as to enable reconstruction efforts.