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I REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË  
PRANË ORGANIZATAVE  
NDËRKOMBËTARE  
VJENË

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

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### VERBAL NOTE

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 Conflict Prevention Centre, and in accordance with Decision 7/04 of the Forum for Security Co-operation, has the honor to transmit herewith the Albania's replay to the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Landmines and on Explosive Remnants of War.

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 Conflict Prevention Centre the assurances of its highest consideration. I.H.



**To: All Permanent Delegations and Missions to the OSCE**

**The OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre**

**The OSCE Secretariat**



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**

**QUESTIONNAIRE  
ON ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES**

(FSC.DEC/7/04)

**OSCE**

**2018**

# OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE

(Reporting for the time period 2017)

## 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:**

3. **If no:**

*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?*

Albania has passed since April 2006 a New Law on the implementation of the APM 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 February 2000.

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.*

<http://www.unog.ch>

(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?*

Albania has passed since April 2006 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 Defense 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 at least 1002 UXO casualties (151 killed and 851 injured) all over Albania. There is a plan aiming to support the mine and UXO victims throughout Albania. The plan complies with several Disarmament International Treaties ratified by Albania, such as Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty, Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and Convention on Cluster Munitions Convention. The implementation of this plan is contributing to the emergency and continuing medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychosocial support, socio-economic reintegration, data collection, relevant laws and policies for all mine/UXO victims throughout Albania.

A “Needs Assessment of Social-Economic and Medical needs of marginalized Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) victims in Albania” supported by the Austrian and US Government has been completed in 2016. The focus of the assessment was to review the status of the survivors, identifying their specific needs and drafting due recommendations for assistance to the Government and donors. To this purpose, a national workshop with participation of all stakeholders including donors was held in Tirana to present the findings and more important the medical/rehabilitation and socio-economic needs of survivors and/or their families.

Based on the above Needs assessments, US Department of State through ITF Enhancing Human Security funded two projects in Victim Albania during 2017. The first project supported the vocational training of 25 survivors. A selection process is done and 25 survivors have already completed the vocational training courses in Albania. The second project supported Prosthetics Workshop with raw materials and components for the repair and production of prostheses and orthoses.

During the reporting period, at least 31 new prostheses and 41 major repairs are done to amputees in need at the Prosthetic Workshop in Kukes Hospital and at 1481 physiotherapy sessions are done to 135 patients.

Albania needs support to further address the needs of Mine/UXO survivors and other persons with Disabilities. Albania has already identified for 2018 the financial gaps and needs in order to fulfil obligations under the APMBT, other disarmament conventions and the CRPD.

All activities were monitored and coordinated by Albanian Mine and Munitions Coordination Office (AMMCO) and carried out in cooperation with various implementing partners including the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Kukës Regional Hospital, and Directorates of Public Health, UNDP Albania, International Trust Fund Enhancing Human Security (ITF), University Rehabilitation Institute Republic of Slovenia and the NGO “Albanian Association for Assistance Integration and Development” (ALB-AID).

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

Albania has completed the clearance of its mine/UXO contaminated areas since November 2009, which is well ahead of the August 2010 deadline under the Article 5 of the Convention.

In addition, the total amount of 1,683.863 stockpiled anti-personnel mines in Albania has been destroyed since April 2002, by complying so with the Article 4 of the Convention.

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**The major needs identified are summarized below;**

**Medical/Rehabilitation Needs;**

- 527 persons with amputations need to be fitted and periodic maintenance of their prosthesis, orthoses; this number includes below and upper limb prostheses, including partial foot and lose of fingers.
- 528 injured persons need to have regular medical checks.
- 610 persons need to attend physiotherapy sessions.
- 137 injured survivors should have periodic checks of their eyes from the specialists.
- 12 injured survivors should undergo operation for their vision.

### **Economic reintegration/income generation activities;**

- 583 survivors are in need of further economic support such as; employment opportunities, income generation activities and support with micro - loans for family home based businesses.
- 347 survivors wish to attend vocational training Courses.
- 57 survivors wish to attend high school (Secondary school) and 34 persons to attend university studies.
- 123 families of survivors need to be supported for re-imbusement of studies of their children.
- 20 survivors ask to have access to daily Care Centers.

### **Psycho-Social/Peer Support, Sport Activities;**

- 262 injured survivors should attend psycho-social sessions
- 32 injured survivors have special needs such as following: supplies with reading tools for blind persons (Braille), Sign language media(sound with brails), Somniferous books ( special books with sound with brails)
- Almost all survivors want to participate in recreational activities and psychosocial support to overcome the trauma, including in the peer support programs.

Upon request a concept paper or detailed project can be shared upon request

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

No

### **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.*

In addition to the contamination along the northeaster border Albania is still suffering also the contamination from unexploded ordnances hotspots created because of civil unrests in 1997. During these unrests and later, there were a number of explosions at Ammunition Storage Sites (ASS) across Albania. According to AAF estimates at the time, 38 army depots (storages) were destroyed due to the detonation of about 5,700 tons of ammunition in 15 different locations. The explosions killed and injured many civilians

while thrown-out ammunition contaminated vast areas around the ASS.

The ammunition contamination of the territory is still a problem in Albania. Among the causes of such contamination are the unplanned explosions at Ammunition Storage Sites (ASS) across the country during the civil unrest in 1997, the unexploded remains of the WW II as well as former army ammunition demolition areas which need to be cleared of explosive remnants.

UXO hotspots have been created also in few former army demolition areas and shooting or firing ranges polygons (former shooting & training sites), which have been closed down recently by the AAF. Most of these areas need a full subsurface clearance at a depth of up to 50 cm, before being used by the army or being released to the local community. New accidents have been recorded with ammunitions. There are in total 1002 mine/ UXO casualties (151 killed and 851 injured) recorded all over Albania during the period from 1997 till December 2017.

The Government and the Ministry of Defense have outlined a new Plan of Action for Elimination of Excess Ammunition in Albania aiming to dispose of all its surplus stockpiled ammunition by 2015 and to clear all the UXO/ERW hotspot areas by 2020.

Albanian Mine and Munitions Coordination Office (AMMCO) have carried out technical and socio-economic impact assessments in 19 identified UXO hotspot areas. The purpose of these assessments was to obtain a real picture of the remaining threat such as: exact location, estimation of threat, to determine the details of clearance operation requirements, impact to the communities and to propose due action. More than 1, 9 million square meters were identified as dangerous in these hotspots, due to the presence of ammunition remnants.

The Ministry of Defense requested UNDP's assistance to deal with the UXO hotspots problem by engaging AMMCO (Albanian Mine & Munitions Coordination Office) as a professional structure to contribute through the same institutional arrangement and role, inclusive of its know-how in mine victim assistance and risk education/community liaison activities, in the area of hotspots clearance and ammunition disposal, to help ensure that these components are carried out in accordance with the International Humanitarian Standards. Coordination and monitoring activities are supported financially from US Department of State through ITF and UNDP.

Since August 2014, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), a humanitarian NGO experienced in mine action, signed the contract with ITF Enhancing Human Security, to conduct clearance of UXO hotspots in Albania, with the financial support of USA Government. Also, the EOD of Albanian Armed Forces is doing clearance of Hotspots in Albania with financial support from the Albanian Government.

During the reporting period January-December 2017, AMMCO was carrying out Coordination and Quality Management (Quality Assurance & Quality Control) of the cleared areas in UXO hotspots of Kordhoc and Picar Gjirokaster, Qaf-Shtame (Selixë)



Burrel and Jube-Sukth Durres.

**The achievements in land clearance are respectively;**

- **226,127 square meters** of contaminated land cleared by Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) and the EOD AAF team, in the UXO hotspot of Kordhoc (8,362 square meters), Picar (13,937 square meters) and an additional 33,715 square meters released due to evidence of no threat), Jube-Sukth ( 169,993 square meters) and Qafe Shtame (Selixe)(180 square meters one tunnel).
- **23,992 items of UXO** (different calibres of artillery ammunitions, fuses hand grenades), 80 AP mine bodyfound (containing only body and no explosives inside), 2 AT mine body and 354,719 items of Small Arms andAmmunitions (SAA) (≤ 23 mm and bullets) and 12 SALW are found during the reporting period in UXO hotspots of Kordhoc, Picar Gjirokaster, Qafe Shtame (Selixe) Burrel and Jube-Sukth Durres. All dangers items found are destroyed in situ from EOD team of AAF and others are collected and stored in the military depot for further destruction on the demolition range from the EOD AAF team, coordinated and monitored from AMMCO.

The AAF Support Command provides all the necessary logistic arrangements according to safety regulations and respective international standards for the ammunition collected in the hotspots by the clearance company and considered safe for transport. In addition, the EOD experts of AAF dispose on the spot all dangerous ammunition was unsafe for transportation. AMMCO coordinates and closely monitors the UXO clearance and disposal operations in order to ensure that these are carried out in strict compliance with the international humanitarian standards. Community Liaison and Risk Education activities are carried out also along with the UXO clearance operations in order to inform the communities aware of the ammunition risk.

Since the Government of Albania is currently struggling with several priorities, the international financial support is a crucial need for both clearance and the monitoring process of the clearance of these UXO/ERW hotspots, and Victim Assistance in order to be cleared within the set deadlines and so ensure the safety of the surrounding communities in ensure the medical and socio-economic rehabilitation of survivors.

**Table: Updated List of UXO Hotspots as of 31 December 2017**

<b>No.</b>	<b>UXO Hotspot</b>	<b>Suspected Area in m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Remaining area in m<sup>2</sup> as of January 2018</b>
<b>1</b>	Sinanaj – Tepelene	200,000	200,000
<b>2</b>	Jube-Sukth, Durres	1,326,714	1.156.721
<b>3</b>	Suç-Burrel	84,000	8,350
<b>4</b>	Qafe-Shtame, Burrel	360	180
	<b>Grand Total – 2017</b>	<b>1,611,074</b>	<b>1.365.251</b>



## **The underwater Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) contamination problem in Albania.**

During the reporting period January - December 2017, a team of EOD divers was carrying out the clearance operation in contaminated area of Kalaja e Turrës, Durres. In this operation they found 6 shells 100 mm and 4 shells 75 mm calibres. All dangers items found are destroyed from EOD team of AAF on the designated demolition range.

The MoD Albania is planning to do the renovation of the national diving centre at Pashaliman-Vlore to equip it with the necessary tools to facilitate safe diving.

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

In framework of contribution to assist others in clearing and minimizing the risk and effect of ERW, Albanian Armed Forces for almost three year is contributing with one EOD team (4military personnel)as part of the European Union Training Mission MINUSMA in Mali.On this mission Albanian EOD team is under German Command to assist with European Union Military Committee (EUMC) in EOD operations in Mali.

First dislocation of this team was on November 2015 and right now is the 4-th contingent rotation.

The participation of Albanian EDO team on this training mission was supposed to be closed by 30 June 2018 but according to the request the Republic of Albania submitted a bid to continue until 31 May 2020, in line with the new mandate of the mission.