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**AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ
ATƏT YANINDA
DAİMI NÜMAYƏNDƏLİYİ**



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO THE OSCE**

Hügelgasse 2, A-1130, Wien | Tel.: + 43 (1) 403 13 22 | Fax: + 43 (1) 403 13 23 | E-mail: vienna@mission.mfa.gov.az

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the OSCE presents its compliments to all Delegations and Permanent Missions to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre and in compliance with FSC Decision 7/04 has the honour to transmit herewith the reply of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War for 2018.

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

Enclosure: as stated



Vienna, 01 June 2018

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

Vienna

AZERBAIJAN
2018
OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

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)?

It is well known that the Republic of Armenia has occupied one-fifth of the internationally recognized territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, has deployed a large amount of weapons, which fall under the scope of the Convention in the occupied territories and continues to use them against civilian population of Azerbaijan. Under these circumstances Azerbaijan's accession to the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW), as well as to the 1996 Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices annexed to CCW seems to be impossible.

Therefore, putting an end to the ongoing use of force by Armenia against the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan would not only ensure the respect for the purposes enshrined in the UN Charter but also further promote the implementation of the Convention.

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

The Republic of Azerbaijan expects that once the armed conflict is resolved and our territories are no longer under the occupation, we would be in a position to accede to the 1996 Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices. However, at this stage without settlement of the armed conflict, restoration of territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan and having a threat of hostility suspended, we cannot accede to the abovementioned Protocol.

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

Due to ongoing occupation by the Republic of Armenia of the territories of Azerbaijan, the use of mines, booby-traps and other devices is still needed in order to counter intelligence and subversive operations of Armenia. Mines and booby-traps are considered to be an inalienable part of defense strategy. To prevent misuse of these devices certain provisions have been set: a) they are only laid in the combat sites; a) relevant registry documents (formulary and maps) are being compiled; b) only personnel authorized by commander of relevant military unit is cleared to the mined sites; c) safety and security of ammunition storages is ensured.

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

The Republic of Azerbaijan does not consider implementation-related issues, since it has not yet acceded to the mentioned Protocol.

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

The Republic of Azerbaijan can consider this issue upon request.

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?

For the reasons mentioned under Part I (p. 1) the Republic of Azerbaijan has not acceded to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

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

The Republic of Azerbaijan fully supports the goals, purposes and principles of the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention) and comprehensive ban of use, storage and transfer of anti-personnel landmines. Azerbaijan considers that full ban and destruction of anti-personnel landmines is an important humanitarian objective.

Under the current conditions with the ongoing occupation by the Republic of Armenia of the territories of Azerbaijan, it seems to be impossible to accede to the Ottawa Convention. Despite these difficulties, Azerbaijan follows most of the provisions of the Convention, in particular by not transferring antipersonnel mines.

Annually UN General Assembly adopts Resolution calling for universalization of the Ottawa Convention. The Republic of Azerbaijan supports this Resolution, by voting in its favor and thus expressing its support to the global endeavor of making the world free of the menace of mines.

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?

Azerbaijan has not adopted legislation on the implementation of the Ottawa Convention since it is not a State Party to the Convention. Nevertheless, mine victim assistance (MVA) activity that constitutes one of the main objectives of the Convention is carried out in Azerbaijan under the Law on Prevention of Disability, Rehabilitation and Social Protection of People with Disability. This law, *inter alia*, envisages social and economic reintegration, medical and professional rehabilitation, and social security of disabled people, including mine victims.

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

The 1997 Law on Prevention of Disability, Rehabilitation and Social Protection of People with Disability protects the rights of all people with disabilities in Azerbaijan, including mine survivors. The law prohibits discrimination against the disabled in employment, education and access to healthcare, or the provision of other state services. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare are responsible for issues relating to the disabled persons.

Since the day of its establishment in July 18, 1998, Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) is responsible for planning and coordination, management and monitoring

of mine action related activities all over the country, including mine victims assistance. ANAMA coordinates victim assistance through its Mine Victim Assistance (MVA) Strategy along with its implementing partners within the Mine Victim Assistance Working Group. ANAMA's long term strategy is to ensure the national ownership of mine victim assistance program in terms of assistance capacity, as well as financial input.

The members of the MVA Working Group, put together in January 2001, coordinate the efforts to meet the needs of mine survivors, as well as to address the issues that they face.

Mine Victim Assistance is a core component of mine action related projects of the country. Basic elements of mine victim/survivors assistance are as follows:

- Pre-hospital care (first aid and management of injuries);
- Hospital Care (medical care, surgery, pain management);
- Rehabilitation (physiotherapy, prosthetic appliances and assistive devices, psychological support);
- Social and Economic Reintegration (associations of persons with disabilities, skills and vocational training, income generating project, sports; social intermediation, business skills development training and counseling) and financial services (disbursing, monitoring and collecting micro-credits));
- Disability policy and practice (education, public awareness and disability laws);
- Health and social welfare surveillance and research capacities (data collection, processing, analysis and reporting);
- Enhancing the national service provision in the field of mine victim assistance and disabilities in general through engaging with State Partner Institutions and other stakeholders.

ANAMA has implemented a number of projects within the Mine Victim Assistance Program. The main objective here was to ensure the full integration of mine victims with the society. As a result of the "Community Based Small Business Trainings and Micro-credit Revolving Fund for Azerbaijan Mine Survivors" project, MVs from all over Azerbaijan received loans under 0% for establishing and developing their business. Moreover, there were projects on carpet weaving for women from MV's families, on computer skills for mine survivors, as well as on MVs health improvement.

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

Currently no additional assistance is required for the projects on stockpile destruction and mine clearance.

Nevertheless, additional financial support to Mine Risk Education activities and victim assistance can be helpful with a view to ensure protection and safety of population in war-affected regions in the country.

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

In 2009, an evaluation of ANAMA's existing capacities, techniques and facilities has been carried out to determine whether it is possible to grow into an International Center for Mine Action. ANAMA's Training, Survey and Quality Assurance Division (TSQAD) delivers various trainings at the Goygol Resource and Training Center that received wide

acknowledgment by relevant experts. The center is fully equipped and suitable for events both at local and international level.

Well-trained and experienced staff of TSQAD has a vast competencies in basic HMA, including in some specialized areas (e.g. treatment of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), house and railway clearance, integration of MDD and MDM in Technical Survey and clearance operations, use of Differential Global Positioning Systems - DGPS). The Division's technical capacity has been built over the past several years, also through the trainings received from the US military (US Navy, USEUCOM, US Defense Intelligence School), Technical Advisors from a number of leading HMA organizations (NGOs and commercial companies), as well as international training institutions, such as James Madison & Cranfield universities. Several manufacturers (e.g. Institute DR. FOERSTER, Vallon, etc). have also provided specialized training in such areas as deep search and UXO detection methods.

During the period 2001-2017, Training and Monitoring Team delivered more than 185 Humanitarian Mine Action related training courses for 1.904 participants, 315 of whom were foreigners.

Available training courses:

- General (Non-technical) Survey Course;
- Basic Demining Course (first aid incl);
- Technical Survey Course;
- Battle Area Clearance Course;
- EOD Course (Level-1 and 2);
- Team and Section Leader Course;
- Demining Supervisor Course;
- QA and QC Course;
- Instructor Course;
- Field Level Management Course;
- Mine Risk Education Course;
- Basic Information Management Course;
- GIS Course;
- Mechanical Demining Integration Course;
- MDD Integration Course;
- MDD Dog Handler Course;
- Mechanical Demining Operator Course;
- Water Well Clearance Course;
- House Clearance Course;
- Medic's Integration Course;
- D-MINE courses.

The Goygol Regional Training Base (GGRTB) at Goygol city (360 km west of the capital city Baku and approximately 10 km south from Ganja) is the main training facility. All the courses here are conducted in Azerbaijani, Russian, Turkish and English languages. While upon request translators and interpreters for other languages can be invited. The Training Base is guarded by Police.

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?

Refer to Part I (p.1)

OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE 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? If so, please describe.

At the beginning of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, mines and explosive devices were laid without proper documentation and that still causes serious difficulties. Mine clearance activities outside of defense sites are carried out by ANAMA. Upon the liberation of our territories the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan will be involved in clearing of mines and explosive remnants of war there. At that stage some additional state of art mine clearing equipment, demining garments and mine detectors will be needed.

Azerbaijan now continues to receive assistance under the ANAMA-NATO/NSPA Partnership for Peace Trust Fund Project "Jeyranchol Clearance Project" that is currently at its third phase. This project initially was aimed at clearance of 64 sq.km of Jeyranchol area in the north-west part of the country along Azerbaijani-Georgian border. During the first phase of the project 19 sq.km of contaminated area has been cleared and 14.654 UXOs and 173 mines have been found and destroyed. The second phase resulted in total clearance of 23 sq.km and 1553 UXOs have been found and destroyed. Within the third phase of the project during January- April 2017, 16 866 948 sq.m contaminated area has been cleared and 2055 UXOs have been found and destroyed.

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

Demining unit of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, designated to detect and destruct mines and explosive remnants of war, operates in Afghanistan within the peacekeeping operation under the PfP. This unit is also engaged in providing relevant trainings.

ANAMA UXO Clearance Team was trained within the framework of the NATO/NSPA-ANAMA joint project on clearance of unexploded ordnances in Jeyranchol, Azerbaijan and currently consists of 60 well-trained and fully equipped EOD. Along with the national trainers, the international experts appointed by NSPA were involved in the training process at the different stages of the project, thus contributing to gaining international experience in this area.

Today within the package of standard trainings ANAMA is able to deliver all courses related to the Battle Area Clearance.