



MISIONI I PËRHERSHËM  
I REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË  
PRANË ORGANIZATAVE  
NDËRKOMBËTARE  
VJENË



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

Ref. 255

### 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 of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and to the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre and in accordance with the Decision 07/04 of the Forum for Security Co-operation has the honor to submit herewith the Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Mines.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Permanent Delegations and Missions of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and to the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, the assurances of its highest consideration. E. GJ.



To:

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



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**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**

**QUESTIONNAIRE  
ON ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES**

(FSC.DEC/7/04)

**OSCE**

**2024**

# OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE - 2023

## 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 ease 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?*

Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MOHSP) is implementing the National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2025, as approved by DCM (Decision of the Council of Ministers) No. 276, dated 12.5.2021 (NAP). NAP includes strategic goals with regard to the accessibility of persons with disabilities social support and services, accessible and affordable health care, employment and vocational training.

Medical specialized services for persons with disabilities were constantly provided in the University Hospital of Trauma of Tirana including orthopaedics service, physiotherapy services and prosthesis services.

Access to health care services and therapeutic and rehabilitation interventions is provided for persons with disabilities, including the survivors of victim assistance at all levels of service delivery in primary and hospital health care. Specialized interventions are offered in 11 regional hospitals and at the University Trauma Hospital.

The National Program for the Rehabilitation and Modernization of Health Facilities has improved significantly the medical service infrastructure in health facilities in urban and rural areas.

There is approved a legal framework on social protection and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Ministry of Health and Social Protection is cooperating with line ministries, civil society and strategic partners to support persons with disability in all areas of inclusion

to provide social support and services, employment, housing and access to justice, aiming to tackle inequalities and discrimination for all persons with disability, including mine survivors and their families.

The assessment of disability through the bio-psycho-social evaluation has expanded at the national level and is aligned with the ICF criteria. There has been cooperation between the staff responsible for employment and social services to enable inclusion in employment.

Provision of qualitative social services for every person with disabilities has been improved at the local level as well through services established from the Social Fund of Ministry of Health and Social Protection. MOHSP, in cooperation with the local government, and the Disability Rights Foundation continues 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 June 2023, was approved the Social Employment Fund, on the provision and administration of financial mechanisms for the promotion of employment, integration, and social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

The model of the bio-psycho-social assessment of disability is carried out based on the criteria approved in the guidelines for adults and children, which make use of the ICF codes to guarantee that the social services and assistance are provided.

Representatives from MHSP have participated regularly in activities alongside with the representatives of institutions and organizations of people with disabilities and on the first National Conference on assistive devices in Albania, that took place in March 2023.

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

Yes, particularly for the mine victim's assistance, including the repair and servicing of prosthesis. There is needed a fact-finding mission in order to consult with mine victims associations and respective authorities on the specific assistance from the foreign donors.

Also, there are needs related to capacity building mainly in health rehabilitation, social-economic support to mine victims and enhancing participation in society through assistance based on rights and coordination of relevant stakeholders including support for victims associations and advocacy.

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

**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.

During 2023 the EOD teams of the Albanian Armed Forces (AAF) are engaged for cleaning operation in 2 (two) new hotspots estimated as contaminated area that have to be clean.

- a) **Clearing operation of "Bënç" Hotspot in Tepelenë;**

The period of operation April - May 2023, the EOD teams of the AAF has successfully completed clearing operation on this hotspot as below.

<b>Hotspot "Bënç", Tepelenë</b>	
Total Estimated Areas in sq. metres	6 489 sq. meters
Total Cleared Area in sq. meters	6 489 sq. meters
Total Items found	2574 UXO/ Items
Remaining area to be cleared:	-
Clearance organization	Albania Armed Forces
Donor's	Albania Ministry of Defence

- b) **Clearing operation of "Fushë Roshaj" hotspot, in Voskopoje, Korçë.**

The period of operation June - October 2023, the EOD teams of the AAF have cleaned on this hotspot as below.

<b>Hotspot "Fushë Roshaj", Voskopoje, Korçë</b>
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Total Estimated Areas in sq. metres	169 472 sq. meters
Total Cleared Area 31.10.2023	112 925 sq. meters
Total Items found 31/10/2023	864 UXO/ Items
Remaining area to be cleared:	56 547 sq. meters
Clearance organization	Albania Armed Forces
Donor's	Albania Ministry of Defence

- c) During 2023 situation in Hotspot Jubë-Sukth, Durrës has not been changed. It has not been worked in this hotspot as long as the EDO teams have been engaged for Cleaning Operation in 2 (two) hotspots mention above.

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 31 /12/2023:	89.545 sq. meters or 21.32 %
Total Items Found 31/12/2023	2252 UXO Items
Remaining area to be cleared:	330.455 sq. meters
Clearance organization	Albania Armed Forces-Two Teams
Donor's	Albania Ministry of Defence

**Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes:** During 2023 the General Staff of the Albanian Armed Force has organized 3 (three) EOD training courses; - 1 (one) training course for level 1; - 1 (one) training course for level 2, and - 1 (one) training course for level 3. Total number of the EOD personnel trained in these courses are 30 military personnel and EOD mentoring course (10 packs).

**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:**

The US Department of Defence 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. Also during 2023, with support by US Department of Defence are conducted some Training Courses for the military personnel of the Albanian Armed Forces as follow:

- “Training of the Trainers Course” for instructor on the management of Physical Security of Armaments and Ammunition (PSSM) dated 13 Feb. 2023 – 03 March 2023. Trained 19 instructors.
- Training course for specialist on the management of Physical Security of Ammunition, level 2 (PSSM) dated 13 – 31 March 2023. Trained 11 specialist.
- Training course for specialist on the management of Physical Security of Ammunition, level 3 (PSSM), dated 06 – 17 November 2023. Trained 20 specialist.

Participation in the Regional seminar “Developments in Conventional Ammunition Management” What is new in policy and practice?” with 2 military personnel from AAF conducted in the Centre for Cooperation for Security “RACVIAC”, Zagreb. Croatia.

This activity is organized by RACVIAC in collaboration with the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)’s Ammunition Management Advisory Team (AMAT), dated 27 Nov. - 01 Dec. 2023.

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

One of the issues that requires a solution is the underwater Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) contamination along the coast line. 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.

During 2023, it is not carried out any underwater cleaning operation on those contaminated areas.

In support of this major project for the cleaning of underwater contaminated areas, the personnel from the Albanian Naval Force have participated and are trained in some courses and activities as follow:

- 22 – 24 February 2023, Reconnaissance in the Porto Romano area, Durrës (VSWMCM).
- 11 – 19 June 2023, Join Training Exercise “ADRION CAX-LIVEX-23”, VSWMCM. Mine and dive operation, in Toronto, Italy. (3 military personnel).
- 21 – 30 August 2023, Training Course ‘Sandy Coast Combined Mine Warfare’, in Netherland with 1 (one) military personnel.
- 12 – 18 October 2023, Critical infrastructure inspection (TAP) Training in collaborate with Italy in the “CHINOGGIA M-5560” Italian ship with (5 (five) military personnel)
- 24 – 30 October 2023, Training Course “Water mines” in Split, Croatia 5 (five) military personnel.



**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 in NATO e-FP in Riga Letoni from 2017 till 31 December 2023 has been 269 military personnel.