



FSC.EMI/196/18
18 June 2018

ENGLISH only

№ 11/25542

NOTE VERBAL

The Embassy of Georgia to the Republic of Austria, Permanent Representation of Georgia to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Missions/Delegations of participating States to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre and in accordance with FSC Decision 7/04 has the honor to transmit Georgia's response to the Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War.

The Embassy of Georgia to the Republic of Austria, Permanent Representation of Georgia to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Missions/Delegations to the OSCE and CPC the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl: 2 pages.

Vienna, 14 June, 2018

**To: OSCE Delegations and Missions
Conflict Prevention Centre**



OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Mines

Part I

1. Georgia is 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).
2. Below is the electronic address of the year 2014: (MFA should put link)
3. 1996 Amended Protocol II of the Convention was ratified by the Parliament of Georgia in 2009, June 8.
4. According to the Constitution of Georgia, all international agreements or conventions are part of the national legislation and therefore, it is obligatory to fulfill the provisions set forth in them. Stemming from the mentioned, all restrictions and obligations under the II Amended Protocol are legally binding to exercise.
5. Explosives Remnants of War Coordination Centre (ERWCC) under State Military Scientific-Technical Center "DELTA" was established in March 2012. ERWCC has been transformed as a Humanitarian Demining Division (HDD) under DELTA in 2013. It coordinates and implements the mine action in the country; HDD requires additional assistance with financial means, relevant equipment and subject matter expertise related to development of Standard Operating Procedures as well as staff trainings on EOD.
6. Ministry of Defence of Georgia does not have the capacity to assist others with regards to implementation of practical aspects of the protocol yet.

Part II

7. Georgia 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) Georgia attaches huge importance to the humanitarian objectives of the 1997 Convention and considers it as an essential International Instrument for disarmament.
Georgia considers accession to the Convention as soon as the security environment allows doing so.
C) Georgia is a state party to the CCW II amended protocol and V protocol that represents integral parts of national legislation. Georgia adheres to the principles and provisions set forth in the protocols. Georgia attaches huge importance to the humanitarian objectives of the 1997 Convention and considers it as an essential International-Legal Instrument.
With full respect to the principles of the convention, Government of Georgia was guided by the moratorium on the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines. Though, considering the 2008 August War with the Russian Federation and occupation of the Georgian territories that has aggravated fragile security situation in the region, Georgia has to maintain antipersonnel mines in armament and preserve the right to use those for purely self-defence purposes. Georgia considers accession to the Convention as soon as the security environment allows doing so.
HDD is a main mine action coordination authority in the country. It coordinates mine action in the country that among others includes conduction of QA/QC and creation and implementation of Georgian Mine Action Standards (in accordance with IMAS). Upon request of Georgian government different demining organisations were invited to conduct demining activities in the war affected areas as well as on the soviet legacy minefields – mainly in the proximity of military bases. As a result of the works, most of

the mine and ERW contaminated areas in the country have been cleared, however demining works are still ongoing.

Moreover, NATO/PfP Trust Fund project "Georgia IV" was successfully completed in August 2017, which envisioned higher-level training of E.O.D. Company of GAF and clearance of former military warehouse in Shida Kartli near village Skra.

9. ERW and mine victims are not differentiated from other persons with disabilities. They are included along with other disabled people in the same governmental programs and projects and enjoy the similar benefits.

There is a Law on Social Protection of Disabled person (1995) approved by the Parliament of Georgia (last amendment was made in March, 2017).

Medical rehabilitation capabilities were developed at the Military Hospital in Gori to support ERW wounded military and civilian personnel (within the NATO/PfP Trust Fund project completed in October, 2012).

Development of prosthetic rehabilitation capabilities in Georgia is ongoing with the USA support.

Social Issues and Psychological Support Department of the MOD of Georgia defines the needs of wounded military personnel, develops supporting programs, coordinates assisting projects and has established the database of wounded warriors and their family members for the elimination of the social and reintegration problems.

In 2017, 104 Georgian wounded military servicemen as well as 82 of the family members were rehabilitated in rehabilitation centre named after "Maro Makashvili"; moreover, 36 military servicemen were provided with prosthetic services in 2017.

Rehabilitation of handicapped military servicemen through sportive activities is supported and pursued by the MOD of Georgia; Handicapped GAF representatives participate successfully in sportive competitions ("Invictus Games") organized by the UK and the US sides, from 2014 (Georgian Team became Champions in sitting Valley Ball in September, 2017).

Besides, International Humanitarian Organizations such as ICRC, ITF and IOM has provided assistance to mine victims in order to facilitate their social reintegration (including micro credits program, provision of prosthesis and etc).

10. HDD requires additional assistance with financial means, relevant equipment and subject matter expertise related to development of Standard Operating Procedures as well as staff trainings on EOD.
11. Ministry of Defence is developing mine action capacity; however, MOD does not have the capacity to support others in the mine action yet.

OSCE Questionnaire on Explosive Remnants of War

1. 2003 CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) was ratified by the Parliament of Georgia in 2008.
2. HDD requires additional assistance with financial means, relevant equipment and subject matter expertise related to development of Standard Operating Procedures as well as staff trainings on EOD.
3. Ministry of Defence does not have the capacity to support others in clearing and minimizing the risks and effects of ERW yet.