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NOTE VERBALE

The Embassy of Georgia to the Republic of Austria, Permanent Representation of Georgia to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna presents its complements to the Missions/Delegations of the participating States to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre and in accordance with the FSC Decision 7/04, has the honor to submit Georgia's response to the Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War for the year 2020.

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 of the participating States to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre the assurances of its highest consideration.

Attachment: 3 pages.

To: OSCE Missions and Delegations
Conflict Prevention Centre
Vienna



Vienna, 3 June 2020

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 in Conventional Weapons (CCW).
2. Below is the electronic address of the year X: (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. Humanitarian Demining Division after the reorganization has been transformed as a Humanitarian Demining Control Division under DELTA in January 2019. It coordinates and implements the mine action in the country; HDCD requires additional assistance with financial means, relevant equipment and subject matter expertise related to development of National Mine Action Standards and National Technical Standards Guidelines as well as staff trainings on International Mine Action Standards, Mine Action Management, Non-Technical/Technical surveys and 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.

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 great 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 environments 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. 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 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.

HDCD is a main mine action coordination authority in Georgia. It coordinates Humanitarian mine

Guidelines (in accordance with IMAS and IATG). Upon request of Georgian government different demining organizations (Halo Trust, NPA) were invited to conduct demining activities in the war affected areas as well as on the soviet legacy minefields including assistance (iMMAP, ITF, NSPA) in relevant trainings and institutionalization of mine action in Georgia (in accordance with IMAS and IATG). 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. Namely: As a result of conducted operations by HALO Trust in 2018, villages of Shida Kartli region Dvani, Dzevera, Zemo Nikozi were cleared along the Tskhinvali region occupation line.

In 2019, EOD unit of Georgian Defense Forces (GDF) continues mine clearance activities at former military range „Gonio”. In addition, GDF East Command engineer unit conducted clearance activities at former military base near Batumi. All GDF Engineer units conduct mine clearance activities after all FTX, held by Georgian defense forces.

Moreover, HALO Trust conducted clearance activities in village Chonto of Imereti region near the Tskhinvali region occupation line. HALO Trust continuous the demining operations in the occupied Abkhazia region, however the coordination, monitoring of clearance operation as well as external QA/QC cannot be conducted by HDCD.

The new hazardous area of the former military base in Batumi of Adjara region was identified during the construction of highway several objects of UXO/AXO (probably training ones) were discovered. In 2019 the E.O.D. unit with collaboration of DELTA/HDCD specialists conducted the technical survey of suspect hazardous area

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 named after Giorgi Abramishvili in Gori (within the NATO/PfP Trust Fund project “Georgia III”) to also assist ERW wounded military and civilian personnel. In addition, in 2018, the building of new Military Hospital was completed in Kutaisi. Moreover, Refurbishment of the Military Hospital named after Giorgi Abramishvili in Gori and development of prosthetic rehabilitation capabilities in Georgia are ongoing.

New modern-standard rehabilitation center was built and opened on 27th of January 2020 on the territory of “Maro Makashvili rehabilitation centre of military servicemen” with US support. This center will give the opportunity to increase the number of beneficiaries. Equipped with latest technologies centre serves wounded/injured military servicemen and their family members. Also modernization of equipment for the New Rehabilitation Center will continue.

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.

etc. This Team provides physical, psychological rehabilitation and reintegration services to Georgian wounded and injured warriors.

MOD continues cooperation with the international organizations, local businesses, Governmental and Nongovernmental organizations to create more opportunities and services for the injured and wounded soldiers and their family members.

Rehabilitation of wounded and injured military servicemen through sport activities is also supported and pursued by the MOD of Georgia. With the support of partner countries, Georgian military servicemen take part in the following sports events: "Marines Corps Marathon" (USA), "Marines Corps Trials" (USA), "Invictus Games" and Cateran Yomp (Scotland). Georgian military servicemen also regularly participate in local sports events. The aim is to improve the rehabilitation process of wounded and injured military personnel and promoting their resocialization.

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

10. HD CD requires additional assistance with financial means, relevant equipment and subject matter expertise related to development of Georgian National Mine Action Standards and National Technical Standards Guidelines (in accordance with IMAS and IATG) as well as staff trainings on EOD level 1, 2, 3; Technical/Non-Technical survey; Management; IMSMA database and IMAS skills.
11. Ministry of Defense continues 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

- 1-2. 2003 CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) was ratified by the Parliament of Georgia in 2008.
3. HD CD requires additional assistance with financial means, relevant equipment and subject matter expertise related to development of Georgian National Mine Action Standards and National Technical Standards Guidelines (in accordance with IMAS and IATG) as well as staff trainings on EOD level 1, 2, 3; Technical/Non-Technical survey; Management; IMSMA database and IMAS skills.
4. Ministry of Defence does not have the capacity to support others in clearing and minimizing the risks and effects of ERW yet.