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FSC.EMI/168/20
29 May 2020

ENGLISH only



**Buantoscaireacht na hÉireann
don Eagraíocht um Comhoibriú agus Slándáil san Eoraip
Permanent Mission of Ireland to the
Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe**

**Rotenturmstrasse 16-18
1010 Vienna
Austria**

TOC/MilAdv - 2020

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Ireland to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions and Delegations to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre, and has the honour to submit Ireland's reply to the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Landmines and on Explosive Remnants of War.

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

Vienna, 29th May 2020



To: All Permanent Missions/Delegations to the OSCE
Conflict Prevention Centre

IRELAND

Response to OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Mines

Submitted 26 May 2020 covering the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019

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, Ireland 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).

If yes:

2. Please attach the most recent annual report submitted by your country in accordance with Article 13 of the Amended Protocol or give the appropriate electronic address for the report.

Ireland's most recent annual report in accordance with Article 13 of the Amended Protocol (covering the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019) can be found online at [https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/0C133D48DA85B907C125855900502DE7/\\$file/Ireland.pdf](https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/0C133D48DA85B907C125855900502DE7/$file/Ireland.pdf)

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

Ireland has enacted national legislation, the *Explosives (Land Mines) Order (1996)* and the *Cluster Munitions and Anti-Personnel Landmines Act (2008)*, and taken government decisions to ratify the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (in 1995) and its Amended Protocol II (in 1997), and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (in 1997), measures which serve to prevent the indiscriminate use of mines, booby-traps and other devices.

As a State Party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, Ireland is subject to the general obligation not to produce or possess anti-personnel mines. Irish Defence Forces Tactical Doctrine has been amended to prohibit the use of anti-personnel mines. The Defence Forces only retain a minimal stock for the purposes of training and research in mine clearance techniques, in line with Article 3, paragraph 1 of the Convention. No anti-personnel mine production facilities exist in Ireland.

Irish Defence Forces manuals have furthermore been amended to take account of the technical requirements of the Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and all of the mines retained for training and research purposes conform fully with the technical requirements of Amended Protocol II.

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

No.

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

Yes, the Irish Defence Forces are equipped with a broad range of mine clearance capabilities, including detection systems and mechanical clearance systems.

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?

Yes, Ireland has ratified the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

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.

Ireland's most recent report submitted in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention can be found online at:

[https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/DA42BE63DA14F87CC1258536005F98C5/\\$file/Ireland+2019.pdf](https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/DA42BE63DA14F87CC1258536005F98C5/$file/Ireland+2019.pdf)

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?

Yes, Ireland has enacted national legislation, the *Explosives (Land Mines) Order* (1996) and the *Cluster Munitions and Anti-Personnel Landmines Act* (2008), and taken government decisions to ratify the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (in 1995) and its Amended Protocol II (in 1997) and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (in 1997).

As a State Party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, Ireland is subject to the general obligation not to produce or possess anti-personnel mines. Irish Defence Forces Tactical Doctrine has been amended to prohibit the use of anti-personnel mines. The Defence Forces only retain a minimal stock for the purposes of training and research in mine clearance techniques, in line with Article 3, paragraph 1 of the Convention. No anti-personnel mine production facilities exist in Ireland.

Irish Defence Forces manuals have furthermore been amended to take account of the technical requirements of the Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and

all of the mines retained for training and research purposes conform fully with the technical requirements of Amended Protocol II.

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

Ireland is committed to victim assistance and believes that such efforts must consist of a nationally led process, with the full and effective participation of survivors and affected communities. We consider that the implementation of the commitments in the Oslo Action Plan of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention will help to ensure a more effective and sustainable approach to victim assistance.

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

No.

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

Yes, the Irish Defence Forces are equipped with a broad range of mine clearance capabilities, including detection systems and mechanical clearance systems. Ireland has been a consistent donor over many years in support of clearance operations related to landmines and unexploded ordnance. Ireland contributed €3.27 million to humanitarian demining in 2019, providing support intended to benefit the following States: Afghanistan, Cambodia, Colombia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

IRELAND

Response to OSCE Questionnaire on Explosive Remnants of War

Submitted 26 May 2020 covering the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019

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?

2. If yes, at what stage is the process?

Yes, Ireland is a State Party to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). Our most recent annual report can be found online at:

[https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/9F74220A8CEB1A36C12585520048B889/\\$file/Ireland.pdf](https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/9F74220A8CEB1A36C12585520048B889/$file/Ireland.pdf)

3. Would your country be interested in receiving assistance in clearing or otherwise minimizing the risks and effects of ERW? If so, please describe.

No.

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

Yes, Ireland continues to provide qualified military personnel to territories affected by ERW as advisors and technical experts on search and clearance operations. The Irish Government also provides funding to aid agencies working on the clearance of ERW in affected territories.