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31 May 2024

ENGLISH only



***Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia  
to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna***

No. 600-2/24 P50702/A-VIII-19

**Note Verbale**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to Missions and Delegations to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre, and in accordance with the Decision 7/04 of the Forum for Security Co-operation, has the honor to transmit herewith the reply to the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Mines and Explosive Remnants of the War.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Missions, Delegations to the OSCE and the Conflict Prevention Centre the assurances of its highest consideration.



Vienna, 31 May 2024

Delegations/Permanent Missions to the OSCE  
The Conflict Prevention Centre  
Vienna

**OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES**  
**To be submitted no later than 31 May of each year (starting in May 2005)**

**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, the Republic of Serbia is 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.

*The Republic of Serbia has submitted its annual report:*

*<https://disarmament.unoda.org/ccw-amended-protocol-ii/national-annual-reports-and-data-base/ccw-apidb-database/>.*

*Please find attached.*

**If no:**

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

/

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

*In line with Article 7 of the Convention, the Ministry of Defence and the Serbian Armed Forces currently hold 3,134 pieces of anti-personnel mines (APM) that are used for the purpose of training and testing of arms and military equipment.*

*The available quantities of APM are stored in line with regulations, in depots that are under surveillance, with access being denied to unauthorised persons, so the possibility of misuse is practically eliminated. The Ministry of Defence and Serbian Armed Forces do not have a programme for development and production of APM, booby-traps and other devices banned by the Convention.*

*In 2021, no retained APM were spent by the Serbian Armed Forces.*

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

*The Ministry of Defence and the Serbian Armed Forces require no assistance related to the implementation of this Protocol.*

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

*The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia has the capacity to offer the services of TRZ Kragujevac, as the organisation in charge of performing APMs destruction.*

## 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, the Republic of Serbia ratified and acceded to 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.

*The Republic of Serbia has submitted its annual report. Please find attached the report.*

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

/

(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?

*The Republic of Serbia has not adopted specific legislation to address the humanitarian objectives of the Convention because ratification of the Convention implies that the Convention has become a part of the positive regulations in the Republic of Serbia (under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia).*

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

*The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs of the Government Republic of Serbia in charge of the integration of victims assistance, and undertakes activities aimed at supporting victims. The Department for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities and the Department for the veterans-disabled Protection were formed as bodies directly responsible for the activity of assisting persons with disabilities.*

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

*Having in mind the specificity of mine clearance problem in the Republic of Serbia, and in particular the fact that in the territory of Serbia, apart from mines, there is large contamination with unexploded cluster munitions, air bombs – rockets and other unexploded ordnance (UXO), Serbia requires international financial assistance for conducting mine clearance operations.*

*As of 1 May 2024, there is 1 area in the Republic of Serbia suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totaling 268,100 square metres. The Republic of Serbia is facing with a problem of newly discovered mine suspected areas in the Bujanovac Municipality. In October 2019, in the territory of the Bujanovac Municipality, at the request of representatives of local self-government, the Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia (SMAC) conducted survey and marking of locations suspected to be contaminated by groups of mines. These are locations where forest fires occurred (in August 2021, too), and according to eyewitnesses, explosions could be heard in several places after the fire broke*

out, indicating the existence of mines in these areas. Representatives of SMAC and Emergency Management Staff of the Municipality of Bujanovac, visited the sites and interviewed local residents, local community representatives, fire-fighters, as well as police and military representatives.

Furthermore, mine suspected areas have been marked in order to clearly and visually warn of mine danger, as well as to ban the entry of population into mine suspected area. Mine warning signs have been posted in the areas of possible access to mined areas (roads, paths and other areas where movement of people is expected).

Given that the areas suspected to be contaminated with mines are located in the Municipality of Bujanovac, which is an area with multi-ethnic population, the whole area has been visibly marked with "Stop Mines" signs in Serbian and Albanian languages.

In March 2024, Serbia applied for a fourth extension of the deadline for fulfilling its obligations to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on their Destruction until 31 December 2026.

This would provide the possibility to complete non-technical survey of newly discovered mine suspected areas in the Bujanovac Municipality, which will take up to 1 year and will focus on the areas where fire forests occurred and explosions could be heard. By then, Serbia will get a clear picture of the remaining mine contamination and development of a detailed plan containing SHA and CHA will be enabled.

The remaining areas contaminated by mines do not have registries and had not been planted in specific patterns. These are groups of mines, not minefields. On most of these areas deaths of humans or animals occurred or a mine was accidentally detected. All these circumstances aggravate survey and clearance efforts, namely survey results are subject to alterations.

SMAC has developed and submitted non-technical survey project to ITF Enhancing Human Security, and transferred the funds that the Serbian Government allocated for 2024 demining operations in Bujanovac, in order for ITF to match these funds with available donor funds, so that this project can be implemented.

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

The Serbian Mine Action Centre retains vast expertise in mine clearance, in particular as regards survey, project tasks developing, quality control, governing of mine clearance project tasks and training. Serbia is willing to share experience and lessons learned from the ongoing and completed operations.

SMAC has its own trainers internationally qualified to conduct EOD level 1 and EOD level 2 training courses to interested stakeholders around the world.

## OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

**To be submitted on a voluntary basis along with the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-personnel Mines no later than 31 May each year.**

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?

*No, the Republic of Serbia has not notified the Depositary of its consent, as it is still not a State Party, but is considering joining the CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War.*

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

*Currently, interministerial discussions are underway.*

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

*The Directorate for European Integration and Project Management of DPS MoD is the lead body for the implementation of the project titled "Strengthening capabilities of the Republic of Serbia in the field of demining and destruction of unexploded ordnance". The second phase of the project was carried out in 2021, which related to the preparation of tender documentation and development of technical specifications for the procurement of demining equipment.*

*The Serbian Armed Forces is interested in receiving assistance in training and equipment for detection, excavation and destruction of unexploded air bombs, missiles and other projectiles of large mass at depths exceeding 0.5m in the ground.*

*In addition to the contamination with landmines, the Republic of Serbia suffers from additional contamination by Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) as follows:*

*The area of about 457.537 square meters is contaminated with cluster munitions.*

*It is assumed that since the 1999 bombing, about 150 air bombs – rockets weighing up to 930 kg are located throughout Serbia in the ground at a depth of up to 20 m.*

*It is suspected that after fire and explosions in military depots in Paraćin, Vranje, Kraljevo, Požarevac, Valjevo, Novi Sad, Smederevo, Raška, Grdelica, Kragujevac, outside of military objects, in an area of around 18.000.000 square meters, there are various types of ERW.*

*From the 1999 bombing of our country, unexploded air bombs-rockets can be found in the Sava River and the Danube River: (Bridge Bogojevo – Erdut, Bridge Bačka Palanka – Ilok, Novi Sad 1 – upstream the Sloboda bridge, Novi Sad 2- downstream the railway bridge, Pančevo Port, Transmission line Ritopek – Ivanovo, Bridge Smederevo – Kovin, Prahovo Port, Šabac, Obrenovac 1 – in the vicinity of thermal power plant, Obrenovac 2 – in the vicinity of Barič factory).*

*It is suspected that in the Sava River, in the area of the Jamena Village, there are improvised mines remaining from the 1999-1995 conflicts.*

*In the Đerdap Gorge, on the Danube River, in the vicinity of Prahovo, in 1944, German war vessels containing large quantity of unexploded ordnance, including anti-ship mines, were sunken. In 2006, a survey was conducted and the positions of 23 sunken vessels were determined as well as the existence of various types of UXO and anti-ship mines on 4 vessels. These UXO pose a threat to people and environment and significantly obstruct navigation in this part of the Danube. The activities related to the data acquisition, regarding shipwrecks in Prahovo, have been performed also in the period September 2020 – November 2020.*

*In addition to the 21 known wrecks, from the previous surveys, an additional number of 18 wrecks were identified during the preliminary analysis. 603 UXO suspicious objects were identified in the sectors around shipwrecks, representing potential danger for removal of the 39 shipwrecks. In 2023, the implementation of the project “Removal of the Sunken German Fleet from the Danube River near Prahovo” commenced.*

*Given the above and the complexity of the problem, Serbia would be interested in receiving international financial assistance for conducting clearance operations.*

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

*Serbia is willing to share experience and lessons learned from the ongoing and completed operations.*

*As the SMAC is the only institution responsible for conducting training in this area, SMAC has developed its own program for recognizing explosive remnants of war in accordance with IMAS and submitted it to the Ministry of Education for verification which verified it in March 2021.*

*The purpose of the training is to educate trainees (members of local self-governments, civil protection, hunters and construction workers engaged in excavation works in the ERW contaminated areas) in the field of mine action and to enable them to improve knowledge and ability to recognize ERW in the Republic of Serbia.*

*In 2023, training courses based on SMAC’s training programme for educators for mine and ERW Education, were implemented, namely 2 EORE trainings of trainers courses were held with 13 attendees from different construction related public companies being trained on the dangers of ERW. Trainers were SMAC staff who underwent Training of trainers for conducting explosive ordnance disposal training course level 1 (EOD level 1) and level 2 (EOD Level 2) - the project implemented within the cooperation of SMAC with the Ministry of Defence, and the financial support of the Delegation of the European Union in Belgrade, in 2021.*

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

UPDATED INFORMATION PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 7, PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

SUBMITTED 30 APRIL 2024 COVERING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2023 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

**A. National implementation measures**

1. No additional legal, administrative and other measures were taken during the previous calendar year to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited under the Convention.

**B. Stockpiled anti-personnel mines**

2. As of 31 December 2023, the Republic of Serbia possessed 3,134 stockpiled anti-personnel mines:

Type	Quantity Possessed	Lot Numbers
PMA-1	494	Unknown
PMA-2	596	Unknown
PMA-3	540	Unknown
PMR-2A	504	Unknown
PMR-3	500	Unknown
PROM-1	500	Unknown
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,134</b>	

1. During 2023, Serbian Armed Forces destroyed none of anti-personnel mines.

Type	Quantity Destroyed	Lot Numbers
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	

**C. Anti-personnel mines retained or transferred for permitted purposes**

- As of 31 December 2023, the Republic of Serbia retained 3,134 anti-personnel mines for purposes permitted under Article 3 of the Convention:

Type	Quantity Retained	Lot Numbers
PMA-1	494	Unknown
PMA-2	596	Unknown
PMA-3	540	Unknown
PMR-2A	504	Unknown
PMR-3	500	Unknown
PROM-1	500	Unknown
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,134</b>	

- The Republic of Serbia has authorised Ministry of Defence (MOD) to retain anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes.
  - The Republic of Serbia retains anti-personnel mines for training of the demining personnel, training of mine detection dogs, testing demining machines and studying the effect of the blast of various types of anti-personnel mines on demining equipment and testing of the protection equipment.
- D. Areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines**
- Not under the MoD jurisdiction.
- E. Technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines**
- The Republic of Serbia has no additional information on the technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines owned or possessed.

Type	Dimensions	Fusing	Explosive content		Metallic content	Colour photo attached	Supplementary information to facilitate mine clearance.
			type	grams			
PMA-1, 1A	140 mm x 70 mm x 30 mm	UPMAH-1 (chemical)	TNT	200	/	/	Mine is plastic, without metal elements.
PMA-2	68 mm x 32 mm	UPMAH-2 (chemical)	TNT	70	/	/	Mine is plastic, without metal elements and waterproof closed.
PMA-3	103 mm x 36 mm	UPMAH-3 (chemical)	TETRYL	35	/	/	Mine is plastic, without metal elements and waterproof closed.



Type	Dimensions	Fusing	Explosive content		Metallic content	Colour photo attached	Supplementary information to facilitate mine clearance.
PMR-2, 2A	66 mm x 132 mm	UPMR-2, UPMR-2S (mechanical)	TNT	100	1,700 g	/	Its fragments are dangerous within the range of 50 m. Detection with mine detectors is possible.
PMR-3	80 mm x 150 mm	UPMR-3 (mechanical)	TNT	410	3,000 g	/	Its fragments are dangerous within the range of 100 m. Detection with mine detectors is possible.
PROM-1	80 mm x 150 mm	UPROM-1 (mechanical)	TNT	420	2,580 g	/	Its fragments are dangerous within the range of 50 m. Detection with mine detectors is possible.
VS-50	90 mm x 45 mm	UVS-50 (chemical)	RDX	43	/	/	Mine is plastic, without metal elements and waterproof closed.

#### F. Conversion or decommissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities

7. The Republic of Serbia has no additional information on the conversion or decommissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities. See the report submitted in 2023 for information that has already been provided by the Republic of Serbia on the conversion or decommissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities.

#### G. Victim assistance

8. There are no specific measures in place for rendering assistance to victims. Hospitals and rehabilitation centres provide all necessary assistance to mine victims – prosthetic devices, rehabilitation and education in the field of social and legal protection (under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia).

#### H. Cooperation and assistance

9. The Serbian Armed Forces maintain a capability to survey, search for, detect, clear and destroy landmines. This capability includes many types of detection equipment, mechanical clearance assets, disposal experts and specialist search and clearance teams.

10. The Republic of Serbia has the capacities for decommission of the landmines and unexploded ordnance. More detailed data were given in the report submitted in 2023.

#### Annex I: Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Act

1. Not under the MoD jurisdiction.

**Annex II: Areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines as of 31 December 2023, and the estimated date of completion**

1. Not under the MoD jurisdiction.

**Annex III: Areas released, 1 January – 31 December 2023**

1. Not under the MoD jurisdiction.

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PROTOCOL ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF MINES,  
BOOBY-TRAPS AND OTHER DEVICES, AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996, ANNEXED  
TO THE CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF  
CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE  
EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS  
(Protocol II as amended on 3 May 1996)

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REPORTING FORMATS

for Article 13 paragraph 4 and Article 11 paragraph 2

NAME OF THE HIGH  
CONTRACTING PARTY: Republic of Serbia

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 01/04/2024

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF

CONTACT: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sector for  
Security Policy, Arms Control Department,  
+381 11 306 89 36, okn@mfa.rs,  
sbp@mfa.rs

Mine Action Centre of the Republic of  
Serbia: +381 11 30 45 280,

czrs@czrs.gov.rs

(Organization, telephones, fax, e-mail)

This information can be available to other interested parties and relevant organizations:

YES

NO

Partially, only the following forms:

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

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**Form A                      Dissemination of information**

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Article 13,  
paragraph 4 (a)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
Depositary [...] on [...]:

(a) dissemination of information on this Protocol to their armed forces and  
to the civilian population;”

*Remark:*

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2023

to: 31/12/2023

**INFORMATION TO THE ARMED FORCES:**

The Serbian Armed Forces have consistently applied procedures as defined in the Amended Protocol II and there have been no changes in the manner of dissemination of relevant data to members of the Serbian Armed Forces.

**INFORMATION TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION:**

The Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia, as a national coordinating body in charge of humanitarian demining/mine action activities in the Republic of Serbia, carries out a number of efforts to ensure that the civilians from affected communities are not injured by mines, cluster munitions and other UXO including through the following methods:

**-Marking;**

The whole area suspected to be contaminated with various types of mines has been visibly marked with “STOP UXO” signs in Serbian and Albanian languages, given that it is an area with multiethnic population. Areas contaminated with cluster munitions, air bombs – rockets and other UXO, have been also marked correspondingly. Marking is conducted by the Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC) and within its regular activities the SMAC periodically visits contaminated locations making sure that these signs remain emplaced.

**-Risk education;**

Locals of the affected communities are being informed about demining activities through a number of means and media. Mine risk education has been conducted in schools and affected communities. In accordance with the IMAS, during demining operations,

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evacuation of people from houses, shops and other communal locations located within the zone of demining works is conducted. Suspension of traffic on the roads within the zone of demining operations is conducted, too. In relation to that, the SMAC coordinates activities with local authorities, school authorities and other relevant state bodies (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Transport), local media means in communities where demining operations are conducted.

Pursuant to Article 35 of the Law on Ministries, SMAC conducts expert works in the field of humanitarian demining related, among others, to educating population of mine/ERW risk.

As the SMAC is the only institution responsible for conducting training in this area, SMAC has developed its own program for recognizing explosive remnants of war in accordance with IMAS and submitted it to the Ministry of Education for verification which verified it in March 2021.

The purpose of the training is to educate trainees (members of local self-governments, civil protection, hunters and construction workers engaged in excavation works in the ERW contaminated areas) in the field of mine action and to enable them to improve knowledge and ability to recognize ERW in the Republic of Serbia. In 2023, over 20 trainees undertook the course.

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**Form B** **Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes**

Article 13,  
paragraph 4 (b) “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
Depositary [...] on [...]:

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;”

*Remark:*

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2023 to: 31/12/2023

**MINE CLEARANCE PROGRAMMES:**

The Serbian Mine Action Centre (founded in 2002) is a national coordinating body in charge of humanitarian demining/mine action activities in Serbia. SMAC develops, implements and reviews a program of humanitarian demining/mine action activities with an annual work plan, which is adopted by the Serbian Government.

Serbia's deadline to fulfil its Mine Ban Treaty Article 5 obligations was 1 March 2023. Given that Serbia was not be in a position to fulfill its obligations, Serbia submitted the request for the extension until December 31, 2024, which was granted at the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on their Destruction, which took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 21 to 25 November 2022.

As of December 2023, the area in the Republic of Serbia suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totals 390,300 square metres in the Municipality of Bujanovac, plus newly discovered mine suspected areas in the Bujanovac Municipality, which will be the subject of the non-technical survey project aimed at determining the scope of contamination. Since the Republic of Serbia will not be in a position to fulfil its obligations by December 31, 2024, the Republic of Serbia has submitted a new request for the extension until December 31, 2026.

The whole area suspected to be contaminated with various types of mines and other UXO has been visibly marked with bilingual warning signs, given that it is an area with mixed ethnic population.

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### REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES:

In the Republic of Serbia, the Strategy for promoting the position of persons with disabilities, 2020-2024 is in force. The Strategy recognized their equal rights of other disabled persons, such as disabled war veterans, peacetime disabled veterans, as well as civilian disabled veterans.

The Republic of Serbia is also implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Under the Law on professional rehabilitation and employment of person with disabilities, the status of a person with disabilities is granted to disabled war veterans, peacetime disabled veterans and civilian disabled veterans. This Law is based on the principles governing the protection of human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, inclusion of all persons with disabilities, on an equal footing, in all spheres of social life – in accordance with their professional skills.

The Law on professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disability was adopted in our country and it entered into force on 23 May, 2009. Provisions of law relating to the duties of the employer who employs fifty (50) employees to engage one person with disability entered into force on May 24, 2010.

This law is based on the principles: respect for human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities; inclusion of persons with disabilities in all spheres of social life on an equal basis - in accordance with professional skills; encourage employment of persons with disabilities in appropriate jobs and appropriate working conditions; prohibiting discrimination against persons with disabilities, in accordance with the law; equal rights and obligations; gender equality of persons with disabilities.

On the basis of the law, the Rulebook on closer conditions, criteria and standards for carrying all the measures and the activities in professional rehabilitation was adopted during year 2009.

Also, the Steering Committee of the National Employment Agency adopted the Rulebook on methods and criteria for the implementation of active labour market of a persons with disabilities.

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**Form C                      Technical requirements and relevant information**

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Article 13,  
paragraph 4 (c)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
Depositary [...] on [...]:

(c) steps taken to meet technical requirements of this Protocol and any  
other relevant information pertaining thereto;”

*Remark:*

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2023

to: 31/12/2023

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:**

**In accordance with Article 7 of the Ottawa Convention, the Ministry of Defense and the Serbian Armed Forces possess antipersonnel mines in quantities of 3.134 pieces, for training of personnel and testing of protective equipment, which are kept in ammunition warehouses under supervising, in accordance with the technical requirements defined by the Protocol.**

**ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:**

**Training of SAF members in proper and safe handling of mines and explosive ordnance within the armaments of the SAF is realized based on existing rules and instructions, aligned with the provisions of the Protocol.**

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AMENDED PROTOCOL II

**Form D**                      **Legislation**

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Article 13,  
paragraph 4 (d)                      “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
Depositary [...] on [...]:

(d) legislation related to this Protocol;”

*Remark:*

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2023

to: 31/12/2023

**LEGISLATION:**

**The Serbian Armed Forces consistently apply procedures defined in the Amended Protocol II, and there are no changes compared to the previous reporting period.**

## AMENDED PROTOCOL II

### **Form E International technical information exchange, cooperation on mine clearance, technical cooperation and assistance**

Article 13,  
paragraph 4 (e)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary [...] on [...]:

(e) measures taken on international technical information exchange, on international cooperation on mine clearance, and on technical cooperation and assistance;”

*Remark:*

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2023 to: 31/12/2023

#### **INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE:**

The Serbian Mine Action Centre retains vast expertise in mine clearance and cluster munitions clearance, in particular as regards survey, project tasks developing, quality control and governing of mine clearance and cluster munitions clearance project tasks.

#### **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON MINE CLEARANCE:**

The Serbian Mine Action Centre achieves international cooperation with numerous subjects in the field of mine action.  
Cooperation with the ITF, after the foundation of the SMAC, ITF strongly supported the SMAC at first providing donations for training of personnel, technical equipping and survey of the mine suspected area, and in 2003 started funding our projects for humanitarian demining.  
ITF and the SMAC signed the Memorandum of Understanding which further enhances cooperation between the SMAC and ITF.  
SMAC also cooperates with the International Civil Defence Organization under the Memorandum of Understanding.  
In order for the SMAC to create an effective system for information management in mine action, in August 2022, the Donation Agreement has been signed between the GICHD and SMAC, whereas the SMAC will be implementing IMSMA Core over a project period of 1 year. In March 2023, the GICHD visited SMAC to hold a workshop with relevant stakeholders to better understand the context and the requirements of SMAC with the aim of defining and planning the next steps of their IMSMA Core Implementation.

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SMAC is continuing its work on implementation of IMSMA Core and establishment of a centralized database aimed at improving data quality, accessibility, and sharing at SMAC and with external stakeholders, as well as bringing informed decisions when it comes to prioritization and planning of activities.

In the period from 29 May 2023 until 9 June 2023, SMAC representatives participated in Mine Action Information Management System Administrator (IMSMA Core Administrator) training course, which was held in Spietz, Swiss Confederation, within the framework of the Partnership for Peace Work Program, implemented by the Swiss Government, through the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS) and the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining.

In the period from May 8 to 12, 2023, in Podgorica, Montenegro, SMAC participated in a quality management course in the field of demining and mine action, which was organized by the Norwegian People's Aid, in cooperation with the Rescue and Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Montenegro. This course was conducted as part of the Norwegian People's Aid project that improves the quality management systems of national mine action authorities in the Western Balkans, financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

In the organization of the Norwegian People's Aid, in the period from May 22 to 26, 2023, in Belgrade, at the SMAC, a course on quality management in the field of demining and mine action was held. Fourteen trainees from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Defence and the company Jugoimport SDPR attended the course. The course was implemented within the framework of the Norwegian People's Aid project that improves the quality management systems of national mine action authorities in the Western Balkans.

In the period from November 28 to 29, 2023, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, SMAC participated in the regional workshop "Lessons Learned and Next Steps", organized by the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA). The workshop "Lessons learned and next steps" was a follow-up to the workshops "Assessment of needs and planning to improve the quality management capacity of national/state mine action authorities", which, was organized by the Norwegian People's Aid, in Sarajevo in December 2022 and in Belgrade, May 2023. SMAC and UK based DRAGON Group have signed the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Cooperation on EOD Training. IMAS Level 3+, Advanced Explosive Theory Course, between 18 - 29 September 2023, was delivered.

In May 2023 and December 2023, SMAC participated at the 30th and 31st Meeting of the South Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council (SEEMACC).

In April 2023, SMAC signed MoU with the Diving Safety Management Service Ltd. in the field of mine action.

### TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE:

The Serbian Mine Action Centre is willing to share experience and lessons learned from the ongoing and completed operations.

Based on the Conclusion of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, on July 18, 2023, the Ministry of Defense as the transferor and the Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia as transferee of property, completed handover of the former Military complex "Velika Moštanica", which was included in the Master plan of the Serbian Army.

The "Velika Moštanica" military complex is located in Belgrade and consists of 16 buildings on an area of 3 hectares. It is planned that the military complex with classrooms and premises, as

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well as training grounds within the complex, among other things, will be used for organizing and conducting EOD training courses and EORE courses in accordance with IMAS standards. Also, the existing buildings and training grounds within the complex provide the opportunity to work on the development and testing of new technologies and innovations in mine action.

In March 2023, at the invitation of the Protection and Rescue Directorate of the Republic of North Macedonia, and through the SEEMACC regional cooperation, representatives of SMAC visited the Directorate, in order to provide technical assistance and support in detection of aerial bombs by engaging SMAC equipment and experts for the purpose of in depth scanning of terrain. The aerial bombs were from the WW2 and the equipment used by the SMAC on that occasion was the US donation to the SMAC.

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**Form F**                      **Other relevant matters**

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Article 13,  
paragraph 4 (f)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
Depositary [...] on [...]:

(f) other relevant matters.”

*Remark:*

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2023

to: 31/12/2023

**OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS:**

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**Form G Information to the UN-database on mine clearance**

Article 11,  
paragraph 2,

“2. Each High Contracting Party undertakes to provide information to the database on mine clearance established within the United Nations System, especially information concerning various means and technologies of mine clearance, and lists of experts, expert agencies or national points of contact on mine clearance.”

*Remark:*

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2023

to:

31/12/2023

**MEANS AND TECHNOLOGIES OF MINE CLEARANCE:**

The following methods have been employed in Serbia for SMAC projects to release areas known or suspected to contain mines:

- Manual demining
- Mechanical demining
- Canine demining

**LISTS OF EXPERTS AND EXPERT AGENCIES:**

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**NATIONAL POINTS OF CONTACT ON MINE CLEARANCE:**

Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia: czrs@czrs.gov.rs