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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: 3 pages.

Vienna, 31 May, 2017

**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 in Conventional Weapons (CCW).
2. Please find attached annual report submitted by Georgia to the UNOG CCW Implementation Support Unit on Georgia's measures related to the implementation of the CCW Amended Protocol II as well as Protocol V for time period from 31.03.2015 to 31.03. 2016 in accordance with Article 13 of the Amended Protocol.
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 the restrictions and obligations under the II Amended Protocol are legally binding to exercise.
5. Explosives Remnants of War Coordination Centre (ERWCC) was established in March 2012 in order to coordinate and implement the mine action in the country; ERWCC 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 level 1, 2, 3.
6. 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.

In 2008, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Georgian Ministry of Defense and iMMAP to establish the Explosive Remnants of War Coordination Center (ERWCC) in order to mitigate the 2008 war consequences. ERWCC has been established as a main mine action coordination authority in the country. Upon request of Georgian government different demining companies 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.

In 2014 it is planned to implement NATO/PfP Trust Fund Project Georgia IV that envisages clearance of the former military Depot at SKRA and training of EOD Company size unit at the Level 3-4 according to IMAS.

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.

Moreover, the MOD is establishing a rehabilitation centre with prosthetic care capabilities for wounded Military Servicemen.

In addition, rehabilitation capabilities were developed at the Gori Military Hospital under the NATO/PfP Trust Fund project "Georgia III" in order to assist mine/ERW wounded military and civilian personnel.

In order to support reintegration of wounded servicemen, the MOD employs them in its structure, as well as in the National Defence Academy.

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

A unified database is developed on mine victims with support of international organizations.

10. ERWCC 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 level 1, 2, 3.
11. Georgia 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. Yes, during the Second Conference of the High Contracting Parties to CCW Protocol V in 2008 the representative of the Government of Georgia made the Statement on accession and the Verbal Note has been sent to the Depository (here UN Secretary General).
3. ERWCC 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 level 1, 2, 3.
3. Georgia does not have the capacity to support others in clearing and minimizing the risks and effects of ERW yet.