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FSC.EMI/185/23  
31 May 2023

ENGLISH only



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE, the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna

Note 16/2023-OSCE

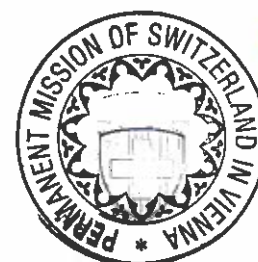
The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions and Delegations to the OSCE in Vienna and to the Conflict Prevention Centre and has the honour, with reference to the FSC.DEC/7/04 to enclose the following information:

**OSCE / Questionnaire on ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES  
and Questionnaire on EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR  
for the calendar year 2022 (incl. two annexes)**

The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Permanent Missions and Delegations to the OSCE in Vienna and to the Conflict Prevention Centre the assurance of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 31 May 2023

To all Permanent Missions and Delegations to the OSCE  
To the Conflict Prevention Centre



# OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

FSC.DEC/7/04, 24 November 2004, Annex 1

To be submitted no later than 31 May 2023

## Switzerland

May 2023

### 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)?

**Switzerland notified the consent to be bound by the 1996 Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices on 24 March 1998. The Protocol entered into force for Switzerland on 03 December 1998.**

#### 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.

#### **Annexed:**

- **National Report for the calendar year 2022 by Switzerland to the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as amended on 03 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, dated 31 March 2023**

#### If no:

3. Is your country considering ratification/accession to the Amended Protocol II?  
N/A
4. What measures have been taken to prevent the indiscriminate use of mines, booby-traps and other devices?  
N/A
5. Would your country be interested in receiving assistance related to the implementation of this Protocol? If so, please describe.  
N/A
6. Does your country have the capacity to assist others related to this Protocol? **If so**, please describe.  
N/A

## 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?

**Switzerland signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction on 03 December 1997. It deposited the instrument of ratification on 24 March 1998. The Convention entered into force for Switzerland on 01 March 1999.**

- 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.

**Annexed:**

- **Annual update for the calendar year 2022 by Switzerland to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, dated 30 April 2023.**

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

- (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?

**Switzerland adapted its legislation in order to prohibit the development, production, brokering, acquisition, transfer (including import, transit and export) or stockpiling of anti-personnel landmines (Article 8 Federal Act on War Material, hereafter War Material Act), as well as financial support to those activities (Article 33, paragraph 1, letter f War Material Act). In the context of Switzerland's ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in 2012, Switzerland included a prohibition of financing prohibited weapons (including anti-personnel mines) into its legislation: see articles 8b, 8c and 35b of the War Material Act, Status as on 01 February 2013. Additionally, the Swiss Criminal Procedure Code was amended in this regard.**

**The retention or transfer of anti-personnel mines for the development of procedures in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques and for training in such procedures is permitted according to the provision of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention; the quantity retained or transferred shall not exceed the necessary minimum (Article 8, paragraph 2 War Material Act). Violations of the above-mentioned rules are sanctioned under Swiss law (Article 35 War Material Act).**

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

Switzerland has developed a strategic concept on the protection of civilians that is based on a comprehensive approach, in conjunction with namely the ICRC, the WHO and UNICEF. It aims at contributing to the protection of the civilian population against the humanitarian consequences of armed conflicts - anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war being one of them. In the framework of the Mine Action Strategy 2016-2022, Switzerland committed itself to support relevant projects aiming at providing assistance to victims of mines (and ERW) in the countries where Switzerland is active in the domain of development cooperation. The objective is to alleviate the victims' suffering by securing better access to medical care, supporting their socio-economic reintegration and promoting observance of their rights. In its new Action Plan on Mine Action 2023–2026 Switzerland commits itself to contribute to ensuring that victims of mines and other explosive ordnance receive comprehensive medical care, are referred to responsible service providers and are socially and economically integrated.

At the operational level, Switzerland financed various projects in the field of victim assistance, social and economic reintegration, as well as risk education in order to prevent accidents in countries such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Myanmar, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen in collaboration with the local authorities and the following partners: the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Humanity and Inclusion (HI) and the Halo Trust.

10. Does your country require assistance in mine clearance, stockpile destruction, mine awareness and/or victim assistance? If so, please describe.  
N/A
11. Does your country have the capacity to assist others in mine action? **If so**, please describe.

#### *A) Policy Guidelines*

The Swiss policy on Mine Action follows a holistic approach that is based on all relevant regimes; it addresses the negative impact of mines and other explosive ordnance, including cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war (ERW).

In 2022, Switzerland invested approx. CHF 18.8 million in the mine action area. These resources were spent to clear mines, assist victims, raise awareness about the risks posed by mines, cluster munition remnants and other explosive ordnance, strengthen local capacities, as well as promote the respect of international commitments such as the ones against the use of anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions.

Switzerland's engagement in international co-operation and assistance in 2022 was based on its Mine Action Strategy 2016-2022. A follow-up document, the [Action Plan on Mine Action 2023–2026](#), was published on 4 April 2023 and replaced the strategy 2016-2022. This constitutes the fifth strategic document of Switzerland in this field. It defines a whole-of-government approach and comprehensively addresses the threats posed by anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other explosive ordnance.

Switzerland is active both at policy and operational level. The Strategy is implemented by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and by the State Secretariat / Peace and Human Rights Division of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) as well as by the Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS) in an interministerial whole-of-government approach.

***B) Operational activities***

**(For operational activities in the domain of victim assistance, please see response to question 9 of this questionnaire.)**

**Switzerland provides assistance to countries and territories affected by mines, cluster munitions and other explosive ordnance in the form of project financing, personnel, material and training:**

- Support to mine action, in particular clearance, mine risk education, victim assistance, advocacy and capacity development in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Georgia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe as well as the activities of Geneva Call, ICBL-CMC, Mine Action Review and Mines Action Canada in this area.
- Political and financial support to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD): during the reporting period, Switzerland contributed CHF 10.4 million to the GICHD. The organisation acts as a facilitator, strategic advisor, research body and think tank in the field of mine action (including explosive remnants of war). The Implementation Support Units (ISU), which serve the States Parties to the APMBC and to the CCM, are hosted by the GICHD which covers the rental, administrative, and logistical costs. This in-kind contribution (about CHF 0.5 million per annum) is covered by Switzerland's core contribution to the GICHD.
- Provision of experts in the fields of EOD, logistics, finance and information management, training and security to UN mine action programmes. During the reporting period, experts were deployed to programmes in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, South Sudan, Sudan and Western Sahara as well as to UNMAS and UNOPS HQ in New York and UNOPS Office Geneva. During the reporting period, CHF 3.5 million have been spent for the secondment of personnel, the organisation of training courses and different other activities. This includes the support of a GICHD-training programme in Western Ukraine. Switzerland further developed and updated its specific training courses for future experts to be sent to international mine action programmes with its partners: The GICHD, UNMAS, UNICEF, and UNOPS.
- Since 2000, Switzerland has been offering international training courses on the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) via the channels of the Partnership for Peace Program (PfP). Switzerland annually offers a series of courses in different fields of mine action. During the reporting period, Switzerland along with the GICHD and UNOPS offered courses with the following topics, "IMSMA-Core Training Course", IMSMA NG, Operations Management, IMAS and Conformance,

EORE, Integrated Mine Action Programmes and "Non-Technical Survey Course". During the reporting period, Switzerland spent some CHF 385'000 for the training courses.

## OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

FSC.DEC/7/04, 24 November 2004, Annex 2

To be submitted on a voluntary basis along with the OSCE Questionnaire on  
Anti-personnel Mines no later than 31 May 2023

### Switzerland

May 2023

1. Has your country notified the Depository 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?

**Yes - Switzerland notified the Depository and is bound by the Protocol.**

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

**Switzerland notified its consent to be bound by CCW Protocol V on 12 May 2006. The Protocol entered into force for Switzerland on 12 November 2006.**

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 (Switzerland is not an ERW-affected country)**

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

**The Swiss humanitarian mine action policy including its instruments (policy work, financial support, the provision of training, material and expertise) addresses also the negative impacts of explosive remnants of war.**

**With the entry into force of Protocol V (12 November 2006), Switzerland assessed the situation with the objective of better allocating the resources devoted to assist others in clearing and minimising the risks and effects of ERW. The close link between the provisions of the APMBC, CCM and Protocol V of the CCW has been taken into account. Switzerland's Mine Action Strategy for the period 2016-2022 as well as the new Action Plan on Mine Action 2023–2026 serve as a holistic approach and consider the APMBC, the CCM as well as Amended Protocol II and Protocol V of the CCW.**

**For a detailed reporting on Switzerland's activities supporting victim assistance, please see the OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI PERSONNEL MINES, response to question 9.**

**For a detailed reporting on Switzerland's policy guidelines on and operational activities in humanitarian mine action, which include implementation of the provisions of CCW Protocol V, please see the OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI PERSONNEL MINES, response to question 11.**

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)

Reporting Formats for Article 13 para 2 and Article 11 para 2.

NAME OF HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY	SWITZERLAND
DATE OF SUBMISSION	<b>31.03.2023</b>
NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT	<hr/> <i>Luc-Frédéric Jotterand</i> <i>Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection</i> <i>and Sport (DDPS)</i> <i>Armed Forces Staff</i> <i>International Relations Defence</i> <i>Rodtmattstrasse 110, CH-3014 Bern</i> <i>Phone: +41 58 483 59 34</i>  <i>E-mail:</i> <a href="mailto:luc-frederic.jotterand@vtg.admin.ch">luc-frederic.jotterand@vtg.admin.ch</a> <hr/>

This information can be made available to other interested parties and relevant organisations

X YES

... NO

... Partially, only the following forms:

A  B  C  D  E  F  G



### Summary Sheet

(Pursuant to the decision of the Fifth Annual Conference of the States Parties to CCW  
Amended Protocol II as stipulated in paragraph 20 of its Final Report,  
CCW/AP.II/CONF.5/2)

<b>Reporting Period: 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022</b>	
Form A: Dissemination of information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> changed <input type="checkbox"/> unchanged
Form B: Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes:	<input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: <b>2003</b> )
Form C: Technical requirements and relevant information:	<input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged
Form D: Legislation	<input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged
Form E: International technical information exchange, co-operation on mine clearance, technical co-operation and assistance:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> changed <input type="checkbox"/> unchanged
Form F: Other relevant matters:	<input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged
Form G: Information to the UN-database on mine clearance:	<input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged

**Form A**                      **Dissemination of information**

Article 13 / 4 / a            ”The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depository ... on:

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

High Contracting Party    SWITZERLAND

reporting for time period from **1 January 2022** to **31 December 2022**

Information to the armed forces

*[From the Annual Report of Switzerland on the CCW and its Protocols, Form A]*

The protection of persons who are not or are no longer taking part in hostilities as well as the limitation of means and methods of warfare, including notably the prohibition of means and methods of warfare which are indiscriminate or of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering to combatants, have always been priorities for Switzerland. Our country puts therefore every effort in the strict implementation and strengthening of the rules and principles of international humanitarian law (IHL) with regard to all parties involved.

Swiss military doctrine, along with the respective regulations and manuals, reflect the law of armed conflict and its principles including the norms and regulations of the CCW and its Protocols, including amended Protocol II.

Armed Forces personnel are educated in IHL during basic training (recruit school) and in all military cadre schools; IHL is part of the curriculum of the Swiss Armed Forces College, which includes the Military Academy and is responsible for all cadre courses, including courses for General Staff Officers, as well as for legal advisors. Legal advisors attend the relevant course on International Humanitarian Law at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo (Italy), and members of the Armed Forces participating in peace operations receive an instruction on specific Rules of Engagement as part of the pre-deployment training.

Officers are also regularly instructed in the Armed Forces College, Command and Staff Officer School on arms control issues, the norms and regulations of IHL, as well as on the CCW and its Protocols (including amended Protocol II). Dissemination of the law of armed conflict to a wider public is promoted by interactive E-Learning modules, pocket cards and a web-site ([www.ioac.ch](http://www.ioac.ch)). Switzerland also organises biannually the international course "Central Role of the Commander" for commanders and legal advisors.

Every member of the Swiss Armed Forces, independently of the kind of performed duty (i.e. national defence, support to civilian authorities, peace operations or training) is personally required to respect the law (including IHL norms). Illegal orders, especially when their execution is resulting in a violation of IHL or international human rights law (HR), must not be carried out. Violations of IHL or HR must be reported to superiors. Commanders are obliged to respect and ensure respect of IHL and HR within their sphere of responsibility.

Members of the Swiss Armed Forces are instructed and trained to use weapons and munitions only according to authorised design and manuals.

*[continued]*

The Swiss Armed Forces International Command SWISSINT is responsible for the pre-deployment training and preparation of members of the Armed Forces. These instructions (e.g. Mine Risk Education) raise awareness and assure the correct behaviour regarding mines, unexploded remnants of war and booby traps. The Swiss EOD Center (Competence center for explosive ordnance disposal, military and humanitarian demining) provides its internationally deployed experts with information on the CCW and its Protocols (including amended Protocol II) as part of the internal humanitarian demining course.

#### Information to the civilian population

The civilian population has been informed on several occasions on the results of the Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to the amended Protocol II by public statements of government representatives and annual public reports on the implementation of the Mine Action Strategy of the Swiss Confederation. At the occasion of the internal ratification process of amended Protocol II and the Mine Ban Treaty as well as during the introduction of the Swiss Federal Act on War Material, the Swiss Parliament and the civilian population have been informed repeatedly about the new obligations arising from the said legal instruments. Information about IHL is available on the website of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (<https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa/foreign-policy/international-law/international-humanitarian-law.html>). An overview of IHL implementation by Switzerland is provided in a voluntary report adopted by the Federal Council ( <https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa/foreign-policy/international-law/international-humanitarian-law/freiwilliger-bericht-umsetzung-humanitaeres-voelkerrecht.html>)

**Form B**

**Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes**

Article 13 / 4 / b ”The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;”

*Remark: The territory of Switzerland contains neither mined areas nor areas suspected to contain mines.*

High Contracting Party SWITZERLAND reporting for time period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

Mine clearance programs

not applicable

Rehabilitation programs

not applicable

**Form C**

**Technical requirements and relevant information**

Article 13 / 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;

High Contracting Party

SWITZERLAND

reporting for time period from

1 January 2022

to

31 December 2022

Technical requirements

Switzerland destroyed all its anti-personnel mines by 1999 and its anti-tank mines by 2013.

Any other relevant information

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**Form D****Legislation**

Article 13 / 4 / d

”The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

(d) legislation related to this Protocol;

High Contracting Party

SWITZERLAND

reporting for time period from

1 January 2022

to

31 December 2022**Legislation**

On 13 December 1996, the Swiss Parliament enacted national legislation prohibiting the development, production, brokerage, acquisition, import, export, transfer, stockpiling, use and possession of and any other activity relating to anti-personnel mines - APM (Swiss Federal Law on War Material). The only activities permitted are those which are directly related to the destruction of or the protection against APM. With entry into force of the amended Protocol II on 3 December 1998 and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction of 1997 (Mine Ban Treaty) on 1 March 1999 for Switzerland, these international legal instruments became integral parts of the Swiss legislation. The definition of ”APM” applied in the Swiss Federal Law on War Material was extended to the definition used in the Mine Ban Treaty and the amended Protocol II. According to the modified Article 8 of the Swiss Federal Law on War Material, ”APM” is defined as any explosive device that is placed in or on the ground or any other surface or in their proximity and is designed or modified to explode by the presence, proximity or contact of a person and that is intended to incapacitate, injure or kill one or more persons. Mines designed to be detonated by the presence, proximity or contact of a vehicle as opposed to a person that are equipped with anti-handling devices, are not considered anti-personnel mines as a result of being so equipped. This amendment entered into force on 1 March 1999. In addition, the Swiss Parliament adapted art. 8 of the Swiss Federal Law on War Material to the exact wording of art. 2 (3) and art. 3 (1) of the Mine Ban Treaty. This amendment entered into force on 1 June 2004.

Finally, the Swiss Criminal Code (Title Twelve, esp. Art. 264h and 264j, see <https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/19370083/index.html>) and the Military Criminal Code (Title Six, Art. 112d and 114, see <https://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/19270018/index.html> - French only) criminalise the use of prohibited weapons as a war crime.

**Form E**

**International technical information exchange, co-operation on mine clearance, technical co-operation and assistance**

Article 13 / 4 / e

”The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

(e) measures taken on international technical information exchange, on international co-operation on mine clearance, and on technical co-operation and assistance;

High Contracting Party

SWITZERLAND

reporting for time period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

International technical information exchange

Switzerland participated in international information exchanges in various ways, among others, by organising training courses with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), UNICEF, and UNOPS for Mine Action Specialists within the EAPC/PfP framework.

Switzerland supported research & development of new technologies in the fields of remote-controlled machinery for hazardous environments and remote ordnance detection capabilities by unmanned aerial vehicles.

International co-operation on mine clearance / Technical cooperation

*[Please refer to Form D of Switzerland CCW Compliance Report available on the Convention’s Website: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/the-convention-on-certain-conventional-weapons/compliance/ccw-compliance-database>]*

**Form F**

**Other relevant matters**

Article 13 / 4 / f

”The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

(f) other relevant matters.

High Contracting Party

SWITZERLAND

reporting for time period from

1 January 2022 to

31 December 2022

Other relevant matters

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

Article 11 para 2      ”The High Contracting Parties shall provide information to the database on mine clearance established within the United Nations System, especially on:

- information concerning various means and technologies of mine clearance, and lists of experts, expert agencies or national points of contact on mine clearance

High Contracting Party    SWITZERLAND reporting for time period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

<u>Means and technologies of mine clearance</u>	
--	
<u>Lists of experts and experts agencies</u>	
Swiss EOD Centre (Komp Zen ABC-KAMIR) Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport ABC Zentrum CH-3700 Spiez <a href="https://www.vtg.admin.ch/en/organisation/kdo-ausb/lvb-g-rttg-abc/komp-zen-abc-kamir/eod.html">https://www.vtg.admin.ch/en/organisation/kdo-ausb/lvb-g-rttg-abc/komp-zen-abc-kamir/eod.html</a>	<i>Experts of the Swiss EOD Centre:</i>  Mr. Ole Feurer Phone: +41 58 468 14 67 Email: <a href="mailto:ole.feurer@vtg.admin.ch">ole.feurer@vtg.admin.ch</a>
<u>National points of contact on mine clearance</u>	
Mr. Jens Malte Amrhein Federal Department of Defence Armed Forces Staff, International Relations Defence Head of Mine Action Unit Rodtmattstrasse 110 CH-3003 Bern Phone: +41 58 467 04 25 Cell: +41 79 155 74 52 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:Jens-Malte.Amrhein@vtg.admin.ch">Jens-Malte.Amrhein@vtg.admin.ch</a>	Mr. Jonas Wolfensberger Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Peace and Human Rights Division Humanitarian Diplomacy Section Bundesgasse 32 CH-3003 Bern Phone: +41 58 462 15 52 Cell: - E-mail: <a href="mailto:jonas.wolfensberger@eda.admin.ch">jonas.wolfensberger@eda.admin.ch</a>



# **CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

**(OTTAWA CONVENTION)**

**Updated information provided in accordance  
with article 7, paragraph 2**

# **Switzerland**

**Date of submission: 30.04.2023**

## **0. Point of Contact**

Federal Department of Defense, Civil Protection and Sports  
International Relations, Defense  
Euro-Atlantic Security Cooperation  
Papiermühlestrasse 20  
3003 Bern  
Phone: +41 58 489 13 39

## **1. National implementation measures**

No additional legal, administrative and other measures were taken during the previous calendar year to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited under the Convention. See Switzerland's report submitted in 2015 for the latest information.

## **2. Stockpiled anti-personnel mines**

This matter is not applicable since Switzerland destroyed all stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

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

Switzerland does not retain or transfer anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes.

## **4. Areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines**

The territory of Switzerland contains neither mined areas nor areas suspected to contain mines.

## **5. Technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines**

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

## **7. Victim assistance**

Not applicable.

## **8. Cooperation and assistance**

In 2022, Switzerland invested approx. CHF 18.8 million in the mine action area. These resources were spent to clear mines, assist victims, raise awareness about the risks posed by mines, cluster munition remnants and other explosive remnants of war (ERW), strengthen local capacities, as well as promote the respect of international commitments such as the ones against the use of anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions.

Switzerland's engagement in international co-operation and assistance in 2022 was based on its Mine Action Strategy 2016-2022. A follow-up document, the Action Plan on Mine Action 2023-2026, was published on 4 April 2023 and replaced the strategy 2016-2022. This constitutes the fifth strategic document of Switzerland in this field. It defines a whole-of-government

approach and comprehensively addresses the threats posed by anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other explosive ordnance. Switzerland is active both at policy and operational level.

On this basis, Switzerland provides assistance to countries affected by mines and other explosive ordnance in the form of funds, material and personnel:

- Support mine action, in particular clearance, mine risk education, victim assistance, advocacy and capacity development in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Georgia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe as well as the activities of Geneva Call, ICBL-CMC, Mine Action Review and Mines Action Canada in this area (Actions #42, #45 and #46 of the Oslo Action Plan).
- Political and financial support to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD): during the reporting period, Switzerland contributed CHF 10.4 million to the GICHD. The organisation acts as a facilitator, strategic advisor, research body and think tank in the field of mine action (including explosive remnants of war). The Implementation Support Units (ISU), which serve the States Parties to the APMBC and to the CCM, are hosted by the GICHD which covers the rental, administrative, and logistical costs. This in-kind contribution (about CHF 0.5 million per annum) is covered by Switzerland's core contribution to the GICHD.
- Provision of experts in the fields of EOD, logistics, finance and information management, training and security to UN mine action programmes. During the reporting period, experts were deployed to programmes in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, South Sudan, Sudan and Western Sahara as well as to UNMAS and UNOPS HQ in New York and UNOPS Office Geneva. During the reporting period, CHF 3.5 million have been spent for the secondment of personnel, the organisation of training courses and different other activities. This includes the support of a GICHD training programme in Western Ukraine. Switzerland further developed and updated its specific training courses for future experts to be sent to international mine action programmes with its partners: The GICHD, UNMAS, UNICEF and UNOPS.
- Since 2000, Switzerland has been offering international training courses on the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) via the channels of the Partnership for Peace Program (PfP). Switzerland annually offers a series of courses in different fields of mine action. During the reporting period, Switzerland along with the GICHD and UNOPS offered courses with the following topics: "IMSMA-Core Training Course", IMSMA NG, Operations Management, IMAS and Conformance, EORE, Integrated Mine Action Programmes and "Non-Technical Survey Course". During the reporting period, Switzerland spent some CHF 385'000 for the training courses.
- **Action 46 of the Oslo Action Plan:** Where they are in place, Switzerland regularly participates in the in-country coordination platforms. It also regularly participates in the works of the Mine Action Support Group (MASG);
- **Action 3 of the Oslo Action Plan:** Gender plays a prominent role in Switzerland's mine action strategy and it is mainstreamed in the projects it supports. In line with its ***Arms Control and Disarmament Strategy 2022-2025***, Switzerland aims to strengthen the integration of mine action in peacebuilding, taking into account a gender

perspective. In accordance with the ***Mine Action, Action Plan 2023–2026***, Switzerland promotes the consideration of diversity (such as gender, age and disability) in the implementation of this Action Plan and advocates for the equal participation of women in humanitarian mine action. The ***Strategy on Gender equality and Women's rights***, which the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs has adopted, is also relevant in this regard.

Any other relevant information

- **Action 11 of the Oslo Action Plan:** In the framework of its bilateral relations, Switzerland regularly invites States not parties to ratify the Convention. This call is also reiterated at the multilateral level, for example within the OSCE or during the relevant Security Council debates. Switzerland also supports non-governmental organizations, such as ICBL or Mine Action Review, which advocate in favour of the ratification of the Convention;
- **Action 12 of the Oslo Action Plan:** To promote the observance of the Convention's norms and objectives by armed non-State actors (ANSAs), Switzerland, among other things, regularly supports the activities of Geneva Call (its deeds of commitment capture IHL rules and can be signed by ANSAs).

Further information is included in the annual exchange of the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Mines.