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AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ  
ATƏT YANINDA  
DAİMİ NÜMAYƏNDƏLİYİ



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN  
TO THE OSCE

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**No. AZ/0735/23**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the OSCE presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions and Delegations of the OSCE participating States and to the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE, and has the honour to transmit herewith the reply of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War.

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

*Enclosure: as stated*

**Vienna, 23 October 2023**



**Permanent Missions and Delegations of the OSCE participating States  
The Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE  
Vienna**

## OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

### 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)**

Azerbaijan is not a 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.**

N/A

**If no:**

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

Azerbaijan acknowledges the humanitarian concerns caused by indiscriminate use of mines, booby-traps and other devices and commends the efforts of the international community to minimize the dangers posed by such weapons. As a country suffering from mass contamination of its areas with explosive hazards, most notably with landmines and cluster munition remnants, Azerbaijan strongly supports the humanitarian objectives of the CCW and the Amended Protocol II.

Armenia's military aggression and belligerent occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan for nearly three decades have been the primary reason preventing Azerbaijan to become a party to the CCW and the Amended Protocol II. Armenia planted mines in the territories of Azerbaijan without military necessity, deliberately targeted civilians, failed to mark and document properly minefields, refused to fulfil fully its obligations to disclose information on the location of minefields after cessation of hostilities and in a timely manner.

Although the conflict came to an end with the signing of the trilateral statement on 10 November 2020, these illegal activities, including transferring of landmines, a significant portion of which constituted anti-personnel mines, into the territory of Azerbaijan and committing various provocations using mines against civilians and military personnel continued until the illegal Armenian armed forces were disarmed, withdrawn and Azerbaijan restored its full sovereignty in September 2023.

Under international pressure, Armenia released some minefield records of mined areas, practical utility of which remains low. International efforts to get more and accurate

minefield records did not yield positive results so far. The presented minefield records constitute 1.25% of all the liberated areas.

Since August 2022, more than 2,700 mines were found and disposed in the Lachin and Kalbajar districts, as well as Garabagh Economic Zone of Azerbaijan. These mines were produced in Armenia in 2021, which indicates that they were laid in Azerbaijan's territory after the signing of the trilateral statement. As a result of local anti-terrorist measures on 20 September 2023, it was revealed that Armenia has also laid landmines and booby traps in the territory where the Russian peacekeeping contingent is temporarily deployed.

Along with causing human loss, landmines planted by Armenia create further obstacles for the return of displaced persons, seriously impede comprehensive rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts and undermine the overall post-conflict normalization process.

In addition to the mine problem, Armenia's escalatory policy and military provocations along the undelimited state border, as well as growing militaristic posture continue to pose serious security concern and endanger the lives and well-being of Azerbaijani civilians.

The armed forces of the Armenia continue to possess a significant stockpile of indiscriminate weaponry, including those falling under the scope of the CCW and the Amended Protocol II and there is no indication that Armenia will be willing to get rid of these weapons any time soon.

Armenia as the only country responsible for the mine problem in Azerbaijan is not a party to the CCW and the Amended Protocol II and evades its international responsibilities under customary international law and those enshrined in these legal instruments by failing to provide necessary assistance to Azerbaijan to demine its contaminated territories, as well as renounce its provocative policy.

Under these circumstances, Azerbaijan is unable to accede to the Amended Protocol II. Azerbaijan will consider joining the CCW and the Amended Protocol II in the context of demining of its conflict affected territories and full restoration of the regional security.

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

Azerbaijan remains committed to its international obligations, upholding international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and rules of customary international law.

Azerbaijan takes all necessary measures to ensure that its armed forces discharge their duties in full compliance with international humanitarian law. This includes proper instruction on compliance with the provisions of international humanitarian law, in particular adherence to an essential principle of distinction between civilians and combatants, military targets and civilian objects. Specific regulations were adopted which prohibit indiscriminate use of weapons, including mines, booby-traps and other devices.

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

As one of the most mine-contaminated countries, Azerbaijan exerts utmost efforts against the humanitarian threat landmines pose to civilian population. Mines negatively affect the life of population and remain the immediate source of humanitarian threat. International assistance to Azerbaijan by the donor community will make a significant contribution to the global campaign against landmines while current lack of due assistance curtails this campaign. As mines present a humanitarian threat globally, any discrimination in distributing assistance aggravates the humanitarian threat that landmines pose and devalue the cause of global efforts against mines.

The Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA) periodically publishes information and reports on its demining activities as well as mine-related incidents including deaths and injuries. Since 10 November 2020, 194 incidents of landmine explosion took place in Azerbaijan. 333 people fell victim to mine explosions, with 65 being killed and 268 severely injured. The number of victims of landmines and cluster munitions in the last 30 years stands at 3,412 (as of 15 October 2023). Such indiscriminate use of mines continues to cause superfluous injuries and unnecessary suffering to civilians. The humanitarian threat caused by mines creates humanitarian urgency that needs utmost attention.

The Government of Azerbaijan has allocated 419.5 million of Azerbaijani manats (246 million USD) for demining activities whilst the amount of pledged foreign aid in this regard has remained as low as around 13 million USD.

Given the ongoing landmine problem in Azerbaijan and the challenges faced by national agencies in addressing it, there is an urgent need for increased international support to strengthen Azerbaijan's humanitarian mine action capacity. Such support would not only aid in demining efforts, but also contribute to the global campaign against landmines and demonstrate a commitment to peace and cooperation in the region.

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

ANAMA's increased capacity and experience it gets through the partnership with international actors presents a unique opportunity to utilize and share them with other contaminated countries. ANAMA is willing to share its experience in mine action with relevant agencies of those countries that are affected by landmines through workshops and field practices.

Demining unit of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, designated to detect and destruct mines and explosive remnants of war, operated in Afghanistan, Georgia and Türkiye. This unit was also engaged in providing relevant trainings. The collected experience can be used and shared with relevant agencies elsewhere. Today within the package of

standard trainings ANAMA is able to deliver necessary courses related to humanitarian demining.

## 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?**

Azerbaijan has not 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.

**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.**

N/A

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

For the reasons mentioned in response to Question 3, Part I, the Republic of Azerbaijan is unable to accede 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?**

Azerbaijan has not adopted the legislation on the implementation of the Ottawa Convention since it is not a State Party to the Convention. Nevertheless, mine victim assistance activity that constitutes one of the main objectives of the Convention is carried out in Azerbaijan under the Law on Prevention of Disability, Rehabilitation and Social Protection of People with Disability. This law, *inter alia*, envisages social and economic reintegration, medical and professional rehabilitation, and social security of disabled people, including mine victims.

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

The Government of Azerbaijan conducts a set of measures to support reintegration and rehabilitation of mine victims. The Government provides rehabilitation equipment involving modern prostheses, motorized wheelchairs as well as social and psychological

services. Mine victims are provided with psychological support and various services. These include targeted social assistance, pension and different types of prosthetic devices.

National agencies including ANAMA, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Emergency Situation, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ombudsman, non-governmental organizations and other related bodies work in close collaboration to address the problems faced by mine victims. These agencies also cooperate with international organizations such as the European Union, International Committee of Red Cross and the United Nations Development Program for victim assistance.

The government provides inclusive vocational education, supports entrepreneurship efforts and small businesses of mine victims in order to increase their employment opportunities and improve their economic conditions. Mine victims are also encouraged to participate in sports events for health benefits.

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

Azerbaijan urgently needs assistance in mine clearance and mine awareness on victim assistance for the reasons described in the response to Question 5, Part I.

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

Please, see the response to Question 6, Part I.

## OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

**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?**

Azerbaijan is not a party to the CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War.

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

Azerbaijan acknowledges the humanitarian concerns caused by explosive remnants of war and commends the efforts of the international community to minimize the dangers posed by explosive munitions. As a country suffering from mass contamination of its areas with explosive hazards, most notably with landmines and cluster munition remnants, Azerbaijan strongly supports the humanitarian objectives of the CCW and Protocol V.

Armenia's military aggression and belligerent occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan have been the primary reason preventing Azerbaijan to become a party to the CCW and Protocol V. Armenia's armed forces used cluster munitions extensively and indiscriminately against innocent civilians in the last 30 years. During the 44-day war Armenia's forces, using ballistic missiles, unguided artillery rockets, and large-calibre artillery projectiles, indiscriminately shelled densely populated areas of Azerbaijan.

Although the conflict came to an end with the signing of the trilateral statement on 10 November 2020, these illegal activities, including transferring of landmines, a significant portion of which constituted anti-personnel mines, into the territory of Azerbaijan and committing various provocations using mines against civilians and military personnel continued until the illegal Armenian armed forces were disarmed, withdrawn and Azerbaijan restored its full sovereignty in September 2023.

Under international pressure, Armenia released some minefield records of mined areas, practical utility of which remains low. International efforts to get more and accurate minefield records did not yield positive results so far. The presented minefield records constitute 1.25% of all the liberated areas.

Since August 2022, more than 2,700 mines were found and disposed in the Lachin and Kalbajar districts, as well as Garabagh Economic Zone of Azerbaijan. These mines were produced in Armenia in 2021, which indicates that they were laid in Azerbaijan's territory after the signing of the trilateral statement. As a result of local anti-terrorist measures on September 20, 2023 it was revealed that Armenia has also laid landmines and booby-traps in the territory where the Russian peacekeeping contingent is temporarily deployed.

Along with causing human loss, explosive munitions and landmines planted by Armenia create further obstacles for the return of displaced persons, seriously impede comprehensive rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts and undermine the overall post-conflict normalization process.

In addition to the mine and ERW problem, Armenia's escalatory policy and military provocations along the undelimited state border, as well as growing militaristic posture continue to pose serious security concern and endanger the lives and well-being of Azerbaijani civilians.

The armed forces of the Armenia continue to possess a significant stockpile of indiscriminate weaponry, including those falling under the scope of the CCW and Protocol V and there is no indication that Armenia will be willing to get rid of these weapons any time soon.

Armenia as the only country responsible for ERW problem in Azerbaijan is not a party to the CCW and Protocol V and evades its international responsibilities under customary international law and those enshrined in these legal instruments by failing to provide necessary assistance to Azerbaijan to clear its contaminated territories, as well as renounce its provocative policy.

Under these circumstances, Azerbaijan is unable to accede to Protocol V. Azerbaijan will consider joining the CCW and Protocol V in the context of clearing of its conflict affected territories from explosive hazards and full restoration of the regional security.

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

As one of the most mine/ERW contaminated countries, Azerbaijan exerts utmost efforts against the humanitarian threat explosive hazards pose to civilian population. Mines and ERW negatively affect the life of population and remains the immediate source of humanitarian threat. International assistance to Azerbaijan by the donor community will make a significant contribution to the global campaign against mines and ERW while current lack of due assistance curtails this campaign. As mines and ERW present a humanitarian threat globally, any discrimination in distributing assistance aggravates the humanitarian threat that landmines pose and devalue the cause of global efforts against mines.

The Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA) periodically publishes information and reports on its demining activities as well as mine-related incidents including deaths and injuries. Since 10 November 2020, 194 incidents of landmine explosion took place in Azerbaijan. 333 people fell victim to mine explosions, with 65 being killed and 268 severely injured. The number of victims of landmines and cluster munitions in the last 30 years stands at 3,412 (as of 15 October 2023). Such indiscriminate use of mines continues to cause superfluous injuries and unnecessary suffering to civilians. The humanitarian threat caused by mines creates humanitarian urgency that needs utmost attention.

The Government of Azerbaijan has allocated 419.5 million of Azerbaijani manats (246 million USD) for demining activities whilst the amount of pledged foreign aid in this regard has remained as low as around 13 million USD.



Given the ongoing landmine/ERW problem in Azerbaijan and the challenges faced by national agencies in addressing it, there is an urgent need for increased international support to strengthen Azerbaijan's clearance capacity. Such support would not only aid in clearance efforts, but also contribute to the global campaign against landmines/ERW and demonstrate a commitment to peace and cooperation in the region.

Clearance of contaminated areas will enable both local as well as regional development, thus creating conducive conditions for regional stability. It should also be underlined that any assistance by foreign countries, international organizations and NGOs within the internationally-recognized territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan must be fully coordinated, agreed and implemented with the Government of Azerbaijan in full respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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

ANAMA's increased capacity and experience it gets through the partnership with international actors presents a unique opportunity to utilize and share them with other contaminated countries. ANAMA is willing to share its experience in mine action with relevant agencies of those countries that are affected by landmines through workshops and field practices.

Demining unit of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, designated to detect and destruct mines and explosive remnants of war, operated in Afghanistan, Georgia and Türkiye. This unit was also engaged in providing relevant trainings. The collected experience can be used and shared with relevant agencies elsewhere. Today within the package of standard trainings ANAMA is able to deliver necessary courses related to humanitarian demining.