



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

Rotenturmstrasse 16-18
1010 Vienna
Austria

TOC/MilAdv/04/2022

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Ireland to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions and Delegations to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and to the Conflict Prevention Centre and pursuant to Decision 7/04 of the Forum for Security Cooperation, has the honour to submit the requested information on Anti-Personnel Mines and Explosive Remnants of War for 2021.

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



Vienna, 27 May 2022

To all Delegations/Permanent Missions to the OSCE
To the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC)

IRELAND

Response to OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Mines

Submitted 27 May 2022 covering the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

Part I

1. Is your country a State Party to the 1996 Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices annexed to the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW)?

Yes, Ireland is a State Party to the 1996 Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices annexed to the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW).

If yes:

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

Ireland's most recent annual report in accordance with Article 13 of the Amended Protocol (covering the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020) is attached.

It can also be found via the APII Database at [Amended Protocol II Database \(2006 – present\) – UNODA](#)

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

Ireland has enacted national legislation, the *Explosives (Land Mines) Order* (1996) and the *Cluster Munitions and Anti-Personnel Landmines Act* (2008), and taken government decisions to ratify the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (in 1981) and its Amended Protocol II (in 1997), The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (in 1997), measures which serve to prevent the indiscriminate use of mines, booby-traps and other devices.

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

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

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

No.

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

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

Part II

7. Has your country ratified or acceded to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction?

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

8(a). If yes, please attach the most recent report submitted by your country in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention or give the appropriate electronic address for the report.

Ireland's most recent report submitted in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention is attached It may also be found online at [Article 7 database \(1999 – present\) – UNODA :: Test Portal \(codref.com\)](#)

8(c). Has your country adopted legislation to address the humanitarian objectives of the convention, or taken any specific measures regarding the use, production, storage, transfer and destruction of anti-personnel landmines? In case a moratorium has been introduced, what is its scope and duration and when was it introduced?

Yes, Ireland has enacted national legislation, the *Explosives (Land Mines) Order* (1996) and the *Cluster Munitions and Anti-Personnel Landmines Act* (2008), and taken government decisions to ratify the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (in 1981) and its Amended Protocol II (in 1997) and Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (in 1997).

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

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

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

Ireland is committed to victim assistance and believes that such efforts must consist of a nationally led process, with the full and effective participation of survivors and affected communities. We consider that the implementation of the commitments in the 2019 Oslo Action Plan of the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention will help to ensure a more effective and sustainable approach to victim assistance.

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

No.

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

Yes, the Irish Defence Forces are equipped with a broad range of mine clearance capabilities, including detection systems and mechanical clearance systems. Ireland has been a consistent donor over many years in support of clearance operations related to landmines and unexploded ordnance. Ireland contributed over €3.1 million to humanitarian demining in 2021, providing support intended to benefit the following States: Afghanistan, Cambodia, Colombia, Lao PDR, Somalia, South Sudan, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. The DF is and has in the past assisted the UN through UNMAS/UNPOL led capacity building programmes, by educating and training local actors and stakeholders in Mine Awareness and Conventional Weapons Disposal (CMD). It deployed two Engineer Corps led training teams to South Sudan in 2013/2014 as part of a capacity building programme to educate and train local police teams in CMD. The DF also has an Engineer Specialist Search & Clearance (ESSC) Team deployed as part of the Irish Group in Camp FAOUR UNDOF. The team regularly conducts search and clearance operations.

IRELAND

Response to OSCE Questionnaire on Explosive Remnants of War

Submitted 27 May 2021 covering the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

1. Has your country notified the Depositary of its consent to be bound by the 2003 CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) once it enters into force? Is your country considering doing so?

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

Yes, Ireland is a State Party to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). Our most recent annual report is attached. It may also be found online at the Protocol V database at: [Article 7 database \(1999 – present\) – UNODA :: Test Portal \(codref.com\)](#)

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

No.

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

Yes, Ireland continues to provide qualified military personnel to territories affected by ERW as advisors and technical experts on search and clearance operations. The Irish Government also provides funding to aid agencies working on the clearance of ERW in affected territories. The DF is and has in the past assisted the UN through UNMAS/UNPOL led capacity building programmes, by educating and training local actors and stakeholders in Mine Awareness and Conventional Weapons Disposal (CMD). It deployed two Engineer Corps led training teams to South Sudan in 2013/2014 as part of a capacity building programme to educate and train local police teams in CMD. The DF also has an Engineer Specialist Search & Clearance (ESSC) Team deployed as part of the Irish Group in Camp FAOUR UNDOF. The team regularly conducts search and clearance operations.

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

**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 paragraph 4 and Article 11 paragraph 2

NAME OF THE HIGH
CONTRACTING PARTY: IRELAND

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 27 May 2022

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF

CONTACT: Disarmament and Non-Proliferation
Section

Department of Foreign Affairs

79 St. Stephen's Green

Dublin 2

Ireland

Tel. +353-1-4082392; Fax +353-1-4082383
(Organization, telephones, fax, e-mail)

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

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

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

Form A Dissemination of Information

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:

IRELAND

Reporting for time period

from: **01/01/2021**

to: **31/12/2021**

INFORMATION TO THE ARMED FORCES:

The Tactical Doctrine and the training manuals of the Defence Forces have been amended to reflect the requirements of the Amended Protocol.

INFORMATION TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION:

At the time of the Government decision to ratify Amended Protocol II and at the time of approval by Dáil Éireann (the Lower House of Parliament), information on the value of the Amended Protocol and on its obligations was made public through media releases and public statements/debates.

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

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:

Ireland

Reporting for time period

from: **01/01/2021**

to: **31/12/2021**

MINE CLEARANCE PROGRAMMES:

There are no mined areas in Ireland.

REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES:

N/A in Ireland

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

Form C Technical requirements and relevant information

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:

Ireland

Reporting for time period

from: **01/01/2021**

to: **31/12/2021**

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

As a State Party to the Convention on the Prohibition (etc) of Anti-Personnel Land Mines (1997) Ireland is subject to the general obligation not to produce or possess anti-personnel mines. However, pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 1 of that Convention, “the retention or transfer of a number of anti-personnel mines for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques is permitted.” Ireland currently possesses 50 anti-personnel mines (blast mines) for these purposes.

Defence Force manuals have been amended to take account of the technical requirements of the Amended Protocol II, and all of the mines retained conform fully with the technical requirements of Amended Protocol II.

There are no mine production facilities in Ireland.

ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

The Defence Forces Corps of Engineers destroyed one AP mine in training during this reporting period.

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

Form D Legislation

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

(d) legislation related to this Protocol;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

Ireland

Reporting for time period

from: **01/01/2021**

to: **31/12/2021**

LEGISLATION:

There have been no legislative developments since the last annual report.

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:

Ireland

Reporting for time period

from: **01/01/2021**

to: **31/12/2021**

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE:

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON MINE CLEARANCE:

Ireland’s support for humanitarian mine action programmes, focuses on the clearance and destruction of landmines and ERW, the delivery of mine risk education and victim assistance, and the provision of related employment opportunities for affected communities.

Programmes were implemented in Afghanistan, Somalia, Colombia, Zimbabwe, Cambodia, Lao PDR, South Sudan and Vietnam by Ireland’s partners. Over €3.1 million was allocated to humanitarian mine/ ERW programmes in 2021

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE:

The Irish Defence Forces deployed a mine clearance capability including mechanical clearance assets to both UNIFIL and UNDOF missions throughout 2021.

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

Form F

Other relevant matters

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:

Ireland

Reporting for time period

from: **01/01/2021**

to: **31/12/2021**

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS:

Ireland is a party to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition etc. of Anti-Personnel Landmines and in accordance with the Convention Ireland retains a minimal stock for purposes permitted under the Convention. Defence Forces tactical doctrine has been amended to prohibit the use of anti-personnel mines.

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

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:

Ireland

Reporting for time period

from: **01/01/2021**

to: **31/12/2021**

MEANS AND TECHNOLOGIES OF MINE CLEARANCE:

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

LISTS OF EXPERTS AND EXPERT AGENCIES:

The Irish Defence Forces represent the only expertise on mine clearance in Ireland. Contact can be made through the point of contact identified on page 1.

NATIONAL POINTS OF CONTACT ON MINE CLEARANCE:

The Irish Defence Forces represent the only expertise on mine clearance in Ireland. Contact can be made through the point of contact identified on page 1.