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FSC.EMI/228/24  
24 June 2024

ENGLISH only



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE HOLY SEE  
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY  
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

THERESIANUMGASSE 33/4  
A - 1040 VIENNA  
TEL. 505 85 01 - FAX 505 85 01 75

N. 5985/24

## NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of the Holy See to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions and Delegations to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre and with reference to FSC.DEC/7/04 has the honour to forward the response of the Holy See to the OSCE Questionnaires on Anti-Personnel Land Mines and on Explosive Remnants of War for the year 2023 as well as other relevant information.

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

Vienna, 24 June 2024



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To the Permanent Missions and Delegations  
and to the Conflict Prevention Centre of the  
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Document Distribution Unit

VIENNA



## HOLY SEE RESPONSE TO THE 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)?

2. If yes: 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

→ **On 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1997 the Holy See ratified the Amended Protocol II (2023 annual Report submitted by the Holy See in accordance with Article 13 of the Amended Protocol attached).**

3. ~~If no: 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?

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

→ **Since there is no use, production, storage or transfer of mines, booby-traps and other devices in the territory of the Vatican City State, the Holy See has not taken any specific measures to prevent the indiscriminate use of those devices. The Holy See, therefore, does not require assistance related to the implementation of the Amended Protocol II.**

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

### 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?

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.

→ **On 17<sup>th</sup> February 1998 the Holy See ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (2023 annual Report submitted by the Holy See in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention attached).**

- (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?

→ **In the legal system of the Vatican City State, treaties ratified by the Holy See, such as the 1997 *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction*, are deemed self-executing and, in principle, do not require the adoption of implementing legislation. Nonetheless, on 30 December 2010, the Vatican City State amended its Criminal Code to increase the penalties applicable to the production, trafficking and introduction in the territory of insidious weapons and, on 11 July 2013, it defined the use of anti-personnel mines as a war crime.**

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

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

→ **Since there is no use, production, storage or transfer of anti-personnel landmines in the territory of the Vatican City State, the Holy See does not require any assistance in mine clearance, stockpile destruction, mine awareness and/or victim assistance.**

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

## 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?
2. If yes: at what stage is the process?  
**→ On 13<sup>th</sup> December 2005 the Holy See notified the Depositary of its consent to be bound by the 2003 CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War.**
3. Would your country be interested in receiving assistance in clearing or otherwise minimizing the risks and effects of ERW? If so, please describe.  
**→ Since there are no Explosive Remnants of War in the territory of the Vatican City State, the Holy See does not need any assistance in clearing or otherwise minimizing the risks and effects of ERW.**
4. Does your country have the capacity to assist others in clearing or otherwise minimizing the risks and effects of ERW? If so, please describe.

## COVER PAGE OF THE ANNUAL ARTICLE 7 REPORT

**NAME OF STATE PARTY:**        **HOLY SEE**

**REPORTING PERIOD:**            *01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023*

<p><b>FORM A: National implementation measures:</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> changed  <input checked="" type="radio"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2022)</p>	<p><b>FORM F: Program of APM destruction:</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> changed  <input checked="" type="radio"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2022)  <input type="radio"/> non applicable</p>
<p><b>FORM B: Stockpiled anti-personnel mines:</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> changed  <input checked="" type="radio"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2022)  <input type="radio"/> non applicable</p>	<p><b>FORM G: APM destroyed:</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> changed  <input checked="" type="radio"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2022)  <input type="radio"/> non applicable</p>
<p><b>FORM C: Location of mined areas</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> changed  <input checked="" type="radio"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2022)  <input type="radio"/> non applicable</p>	<p><b>FORM H: Technical characteristics:</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> changed  <input checked="" type="radio"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2022)  <input type="radio"/> non applicable</p>
<p><b>FORM D: APMs retained or transferred</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> changed  <input checked="" type="radio"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2022)  <input type="radio"/> non applicable</p>	<p><b>FORM I: Warning measures:</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> changed  <input checked="" type="radio"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2022)  <input type="radio"/> non applicable</p>
<p><b>FORM E: Status of conversion programs:</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> changed  <input checked="" type="radio"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2022)  <input type="radio"/> non applicable</p>	<p><b>FORM J: Other Relevant Matters</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> changed  <input checked="" type="radio"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2022)  <input type="radio"/> non applicable</p>

Notes on using the cover page:

1. The cover page could be used as a **complement** to submitting detailed forms adopted at the First and Second Meetings of the States Parties in instances when the information to be provided in some of the forms in an annual report is the same as it would be in past reports. That is, when using the cover page, only forms within which there is new information would need to be submitted.
2. The cover page could be used as a **substitute** for submitting detailed forms adopted at the First and Second Meetings of the States Parties only if all of the information to be provided in an annual report is the same as in past reports.
3. If an indication is made on the cover sheet that the information to be provided with respect to a particular form would be unchanged in relationship to a previous year's form the date of submission of the previous form should be clearly indicated.



## **HOLY SEE**

### **NATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023**

pursuant to the Decision of the Third CCW Review Conference on the establishment of a Compliance mechanism applicable to the Convention, as contained in its Final Declaration, Annex II, Paragraph 5 (CCW/CONF.III/11, Part II)

NAME OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY: HOLY SEE

**PARTY TO:**

- Protocol I (Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments)
- Protocol II (Protocol on Mines Booby-Traps and Other Devices)
- Amended Protocol II (amended Protocol on Mines Booby-Traps and Other Devices)
- Protocol III (Protocol on Incendiary Weapons)
- Protocol IV (Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons)
- Protocol V (Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War)

**ACCEDED TO:**

- the amendment to Article 1 of the Convention

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 15 / 01 / 2024

National Point of Contact: Secretariat of State  
00120 Vatican City State

- COMPLIANCE -

**FORM A: Dissemination of information**

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

*"The High Contracting Parties will provide information [...] on*

*(a) Dissemination of information on the Convention and its annexed Protocols to their armed forces and to the civilian population;*

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**High Contracting Party:** HOLY SEE

**Reporting period:** *from 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023*

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- Additional information of dissemination of information on CCW Amended Protocol II to armed forces and civilian population is contained in the National Annual Report provided in accordance with paragraph 4(a) of Article 13 of Amended Protocol II for the year 2023.
- Additional information on dissemination of information on CCW Protocol V is contained in the National Report provided pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) of Article 10 of Protocol V for the year 2023.

Information to the armed forces, including the extent to which the CCW and its Protocols are part of military manuals and the training curriculum of its armed forces:

Nothing to declare.

Information to the civilian population, including information on any programs, courses or documentation to disseminate the CCW to non-military audiences:

Nothing to declare.

Any other relevant information:

Nothing to declare.

**- COMPLIANCE -**  
**SUMMARY SHEET**

**Reporting period:** *from 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023*

**Form A:** Dissemination of information:  changed  
 unchanged (last reporting: 2022)

**Form B:** Technical requirements and relevant information:  changed  
 unchanged (last reporting: 2022)

**Form C:** Legislation:  changed  
 unchanged (last reporting: 2022)

**Form D:** Technical cooperation and assistance:  changed  
 unchanged (last reporting: 2022)

**Form E:** Other relevant matters:  changed  
 unchanged (last reporting: 2022)

**General Remarks concerning the implementation of the Convention and its annexed Protocols**

The Holy See, acting also in the name and on behalf of the Vatican City State, declares that it has never used, stockpiled or produced any sort of conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects which are covered by the Convention and its five annexed Protocols.

There are no such conventional weapons placed on the territory of Vatican City State.

The provisions of the CCW as well as the provisions of its five annexed Protocols have been completely implemented.

The Holy See supports and promotes all activities focusing on a total worldwide elimination of conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects which are covered by the Convention and its five annexed Protocols. The Holy See is supporting efforts to help victims suffering the terrible consequences caused by such weapons.



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)

Summary sheet

Summary Reporting Format for Article 13 paragraph 4 and Article 11 paragraph 2,  
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 Document, CCW/AP.II/CONF.5/2

NAME OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY

**HOLY SEE**

DATE OF SUBMISSION – *15 January 2024*

NATIONAL POINT OF CONTACT

Secretariat of State  
00120 Vatican City State

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

YES

NO

**REPORTING PERIOD:** *from 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023*

**Form A:** Dissemination of information:

changed  
 unchanged (last reporting: 2022)

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

changed  
 unchanged (last reporting: 2022)

**Form C:** Technical requirements and relevant information:

changed  
 unchanged (last reporting: 2022)

**Form D:** Legislation:

changed  
 unchanged (last reporting: 2022)

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

changed  
 unchanged (last reporting: 2022)

**Form F:** Other relevant matters:

changed  
 unchanged (last reporting: 2022)

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

changed  
 unchanged (last reporting: 2022)

**CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN  
CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY  
INJURIOUS OR HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS (CCW)  
PROTOCOL ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR  
(PROTOCOL V)**

**SUMMARY COVER PAGE  
OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF CCW PROTOCOL V<sup>1</sup>**

NAME OF STATE PARTY: **HOLY SEE**

REPORTING PERIOD: *from 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023*

<b>Form A:</b> Steps taken to implement Article 3 of the Protocol: Clearance, removal or destruction of ERW	<input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2022) <input type="checkbox"/> non applicable
<b>Form B:</b> Steps taken to implement Article 4 of the Protocol: Recording, retaining and transmission of information	<input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2022) <input type="checkbox"/> non applicable
<b>Form C:</b> Steps taken to implement Article 5 of the Protocol: Other precautions for the protection of the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian objects from the risks and effects of ERW	<input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2022) <input type="checkbox"/> non applicable
<b>Form D:</b> Steps taken to implement Article 6 of the Protocol: Provisions for the protection of humanitarian missions and organizations from the effects of explosive remnants of war	<input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2022) <input type="checkbox"/> non applicable
<b>Form E:</b> Steps taken to implement Article 7 of the Protocol: Assistance with respect to existing explosive remnants of war	<input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2022) <input type="checkbox"/> non applicable
<b>Form F:</b> Steps taken to implement Article 8 of the Protocol: Co-operation and assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2022) <input type="checkbox"/> non applicable
<b>Form G:</b> Steps taken to implement Article 9 of the Protocol: Generic preventive measures	<input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2022) <input type="checkbox"/> non applicable
<b>Form H:</b> Steps taken to implement Article 11 of the Protocol: Compliance	<input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2022) <input type="checkbox"/> non applicable
<b>Form I:</b> Other Relevant Matters	<input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2022) <input type="checkbox"/> non applicable

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to the relevant decision of the First Conference of the High Contracting Parties to CCW Protocol V, this cover page could be used as a **complement** to submitting the detailed reporting forms adopted at the First Conference of the High Contracting Parties to CCW Protocol V in case there is no substantial change in the ERW situation, as a result of a conflict or of the measures undertaken in compliance with the provisions of Protocol V, and when the information to be provided in some of the forms in an annual report is the same as it would be in past reports.