

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
(CCW)

Reporting Formats

pursuant to the Decision of the Third 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: **SWITZERLAND**

PARTY TO:

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

ACCEDED TO:

- yes amended Article I

DATE OF SUBMISSION: **7 OF SEPTEMBER 2007**

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT¹ (Organization, telephones, fax, e-mail):

Véronique Haller
Federal Department of foreign affairs
Directorate of international law
Federal Palace North
CH-3003 Bern
Phone: ++41 31 325 07 68 / Fax: ++41 325 07 67
E-mail: veronique.haller@eda.admin.ch

Serge Bavaud
Federal Department of Defence
Directorate for Security Policy
Arms Control and Disarmament Policy
CH-3003 Bern
Phone: ++41 31 324 54 86 / Fax: ++41 31 324 40 16
E-mail: serge.bavaud@dsp.admin.ch

¹ Please indicate individually for the CCW and each Protocol (if different)

NOTE: Pursuant to paragraph 5 of the above Decision the High Contracting Parties have agreed “to provide information to the Secretary-General in advance of the Meeting, which will be circulated by the Secretary-General to all the High Contracting Parties, on any of the following matters:

- (a) Dissemination of information on the Convention and its annexed Protocols to their armed forces and to the civilian population;
- (b) Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;
- (c) Legislation related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols;
- (d) Measures taken on technical co-operation and assistance; and
- (e) Other relevant matters.”

Each of the items listed above are provided as separate individual forms to be filled out by each High Contracting Party accordingly.

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;”

High Contracting Party: **SWITZERLAND**

Information to the armed forces

Our country has always seen as one of its main tasks to alleviate the plight of combatants and civilians by formulating rules of conduct in armed conflicts. We must therefore make every effort to uphold the standards set by the international law of armed conflict with regard to ourselves and the enemy.

Swiss military doctrine and manuals reflect the law of armed conflict and its principles including respectively those of the CCW and its Protocols. Every soldier performing active duty service (which is reserved for engagements in armed conflict, protection of neutrality and service performed to restore public order) is sworn in to respect the law of armed conflict. Illegal orders, especially when their execution is resulting in a violation of international humanitarian law (IHL), must not be carried out. Commanders are obliged to respect and ensure respect of IHL within their sphere of responsibility.

The principles of distinction, necessity, legality and proportionality are implemented in the ROE (Rules of Engagement) planned by military commanders. They also include provisions prohibiting alteration of official weapons and/or ammunitions of the Swiss Armed Forces or any use of not officially approved arms and munitions by members of the Swiss Armed Forces. According to Swiss national law, it is strictly prohibited for members of the Swiss Armed Forces to participate in combat actions for peace-enforcement purposes.

Mission oriented ROE are trained during the training sequence preceding a mission. Pocket Cards reminding the mission and its specific ROE are handed out to each member of deployed units.

During active service, Armed Forces personnel are put under oath or vow to observe the Law of Armed Conflict. Armed Forces personnel are educated in the law of armed conflict during basic training (recruit school) and in all military cadre schools.

Dissemination of the law of armed conflict to a wider public is to be promoted by interactive CD-ROMs and an internet web-site. Officer candidates are regularly instructed in the central officer's school on arms control issues as well as on the CCW and its Protocols. The Swiss Armed Forces International Command SWISSINT gives instructions to soldiers and officers preparing a mission abroad. These instructions (e.g. Mine Risk Education) raise awareness and assure the correct behaviour regarding mines, unexploded remnants of war and booby traps. The KAMIR (Competence centre for EOD, military and humanitarian demining) gives lectures to its instructors on the CCW and its Protocols.

Information to the civilian population

The civilian population has been informed on several occasions on the results of the Annual Conferences of the States Parties to Convention and its Protocols by public statements of Government representatives. At the occasion of the internal ratification-process of amended Protocol II, amended article 1 and Protocol V as well as at 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.

All legal instruments and federal legislation related to IHL are published under www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/sr.html.

Any other relevant information

Further information is included in the annual exchange of the OSCE Code of Conduct and on the homepage of the Swiss Armed Forces, Law of the Armed Conflict: <http://www.vtg.admin.ch/internet/groupgst/de/home/peace/kriegsv0.html>.

Form B Technical requirements and relevant information

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information [...] on:

- (b) Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;”

High Contracting Party: **SWITZERLAND**

Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols

The Swiss Armed Forces Conventional Weapons and their Ammunition fulfil the technical requirements set out in the CCW Convention and its Protocols. Weapons not corresponding to the Convention and its Protocols were decommissioned (i.e. flamethrowers in 1993 and anti-personnel mines in 1999).

Any other relevant information

Form C Legislation

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information [...] on:

- (c) Legislation related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols;”

High Contracting Party: **SWITZERLAND**

Legislation

The Convention and its Protocols all entered into force for Switzerland. These international legal instruments are integral parts of the Swiss legislation.

In addition, Switzerland has regularly adapted the Swiss Federal Law on War Material to the wording of the relevant Conventions, including the Mine Ban Treaty.

Any other relevant information

Form D Technical co-operation and assistance

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information [...] on:

- (d) Measures taken on technical co-operation and assistance;”

High Contracting Party: **SWITZERLAND**

International technical co-operation

The Swiss policy on Mine Action addresses the negative impact of mines and explosive remnants of war.

Switzerland provides assistance to mine / ERW affected countries in terms of funds, material and personnel.

Switzerland supports demining projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Angola, Burundi, Mozambique, Sudan, Lebanon and in Sri Lanka. In Colombia, Russian Federation, Georgia, Angola, Mozambique and Laos, Switzerland provides funds for mine risk education. In the field of victim assistance, Switzerland and Afghanistan were Co-chairs of the Standing Committee for Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration of the Mine Ban Treaty in 2006, and developed a Strategy aimed at contributing to achieve substantial progresses by the 2009 Review Conference. Switzerland adopted a 2007-2008 follow-up Strategy, in order to ensure certain durability to the actions initiated and carried out in 2006.

Swiss Mine Action specialists (both military and civilian) are deployed to UN Mine Action programs as well as to selected NGOs. In 2006, Swiss Mine Action specialists were deployed to programs in Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Sri Lanka and Sudan. Previous assignments (1999-2005), in addition to the aforementioned countries, include Azerbaijan, Eritrea, Kosovo and Yemen. In order to ensure adequate and sustainable human resources in the future, Switzerland established during the last years a pool of demining specialists for international deployments. An intensive training course for military staff has been set up specifically for the position of supervisors and is organized each year. In 2004, a centre of competence for EOD has been established by the Swiss Armed Forces.

Among the material provided by Switzerland to international Mine Action Programs, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Systems are the most prominent items. As far as training capacities go, Switzerland has been offering, since the year 2000 and via the channels of the Partnership for Peace Program (PfP), an international training course on the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA). The tenth edition of this course took place in Geneva in May 2005.

International technical assistance

Within the framework of the Trust Fund of the Partnership for Peace (PfP), Switzerland also provided financial assistance to a project aimed at providing assistance to Serbia and

Montenegro for the destruction of 1.3 millions stockpiled APM, and thereby at supporting Serbia and Montenegro in meeting its obligations under art. 4 of the Mine Ban Treaty.

Moreover, Switzerland provides substantial funding to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) which acts as a facilitator, research body and think tank in the field of Mine Action, and which has also been mandated by the State Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty to assist in the implementation of the said convention via a Implementation Support Unit created in 2002. Switzerland also provided financial assistance in 2005 to a GICHD run "Introductory Course on Mine Action" aimed at training civil servants newly involved in the landmine issue.

Any other relevant information

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

Form E Other relevant matters

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information [...] on:

- (e) Other relevant matters.”

High Contracting Party: **SWITZERLAND**

Other relevant matters
