The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and to the other international organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the CCW Implementation Support Unit, Office for Disarmament Affairs (Geneva Branch), and has the honour to submit Switzerland's 2013 Report according to the decision of the Fourth Review Conference on the establishment of a Compliance mechanism to the 1980 "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", as contained in the Conference's Final Declaration, Annex III.

The Permanent Mission of Switzerland thanks the CCW Implementation Support Unit for circulating this report to all High Contracting Parties.

The Permanent Mission of Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the CCW Implementation Support Unit the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 19 March 2014

CCW Implementation Support Unit
Office for Disarmament Affairs (Geneva Branch)
United Nations Office at Geneva
Palais des Nations, Office C 113-1
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
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 1

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 31 MARCH 2014

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\(^1\) 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

The protection of people who are not or are no longer taking part in hostilities and strengthening of the restriction of the methods and means of warfare have always been priorities for Switzerland. Our country puts therefore every effort in upholding the standards set by 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.

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 Training Centre (all cadre courses, including courses for General Staff Officers), the Swiss Military Academy as well as of schools and courses for legal advisors. Legal advisors attend the Military Course on International Humanitarian Law at the San Remo Institute, and members of the Armed Forces participating in PSO receive an instruction on IHL and on specific Rules of Engagement.

Officer candidates are also regularly instructed in the central officer's school on arms control issues, the norms and regulations of IHL, as well as on the CCW and its Protocols. Dissemination of the law of armed conflict to a wider public is promoted by interactive CD-ROMs and an internet web-site.

Every member of the Swiss Armed Forces performing service (i.e. national defence service, public order service, training of the armed forces, support to civilian authorities, and international peace support and crisis management) has to respect the law (including the norms IHL). Illegal orders, especially when their execution is resulting in a violation of IHL or international human rights law (HR), must not be carried out. 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 design and authorised use, thus not to make any technical alterations to them.
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 Swiss BOD Center (Competence center for explosive ordnance disposal, military and humanitarian demining) instructs its international deployed supervisors on the CCW and its Protocols 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 Convention and its Protocols by public statements of Government representatives. At the occasion of the ratification process of amended Protocol II, amended article 1 and Protocol V as well in the course of the implementation of the Federal Act on War Material, the Swiss Parliament and the civilian population have been informed comprehensively on the new obligations arising from these legal instruments.

The respective federal legislation is available under http://www.admin.ch/ch/f/rs/514_51/index.html

Any other relevant information

Further information is included in the annual exchange of the OSCE Code of Conduct and on the webpage of the Swiss Armed Forces, Law of the Armed Conflict: www.loac.ch (in German and French)
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 ammunition fulfil the technical requirements set out in the CCW Convention and its Protocols. Weapons not meeting the relevant technical requirements due under the Convention and its Protocols have been decommissioned accordingly (i.e. flamethrowers in 1993, 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

Switzerland is a High Contracting Party to the Convention and all its Protocols. These international legal instruments build an integral part of the Swiss legislation.

In addition, Switzerland is a State Party to the Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines (APMBC). The comprehensive ban in this regard is reflected in article 8 of the Federal Act on War Material (see http://www.admin.ch/ch/f/rs/514_51/index.html).

In the context of explosive remnants of war, including explosive remnants of cluster munitions, Switzerland has also signed and ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). The instruments of ratification were deposited on 17 July 2012; the Convention entered into force for Switzerland on 1 January 2013.

The ratification is reflected in the necessary amendments of the Federal Act on War Material (articles 8a, 8b and 8c as well as articles 35a and 35b) (online link as above).

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 and assistance

International co-operation and assistance provided: In 2013, Switzerland attributed more than CHF 17 million to mine action, which includes the engagements in regard to international co-operation and assistance. Due to well-known practical reasons, the attribution to activities addressing the threat posed by anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other ERWs cannot always be clearly separated and quantified.

Switzerland’s engagement in international co-operation and assistance is based on the Mine Action Strategy of the Swiss Confederation 2012-2015, which defines a whole of government approach to, all activities in regard to address the threats posed by anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war on policy as well as on operational level.

On that basis, Switzerland provides assistance to mine / cluster munitions / ERW affected countries in terms of funds, material and personnel:

- The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) supports clearing-projects, projects integrating mine action into development, risk awareness campaigns and victim assistance projects mainly through financial contributions in priority countries such as: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Kosovo, Laos or Libya for about CHF 5.9 million.

- The FDFA also provides substantial political and financial support to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD): in the reporting period, Switzerland contributed about CHF 8.9 million to the GICHD, which acts as a facilitator, strategic adviser, research body and think tank in the field of Mine Action (including ERW). The Implementation Support Unit (ISU), which serves the States Parties to the APMBC, is hosted by the GICHD with considerable in-kind contributions from Switzerland (about CH 0.5 million per annum).

- In addition, the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS) is providing experts for Mine Action Programmes by the UN on a
voluntary basis. Switzerland supports UN-Mine Action programmes with specialists in the fields of logistics, finance, administration and information management as well as with EOD specialists. During the reporting period January 2013 to December 2013, Swiss Mine Action specialists were deployed to programs in, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Somaliland/Puntland, South Sudan, UNOPS and UNMAS HQ in New York and Western Sahara. During the reporting period, CHF 2.6 million have been spent for the assignment of personnel. The DDPS further developed and updated its specific training courses for future experts to be sent to international Mine Action Programs.

- Furthermore, the DDPS offers EOD systems. This offer includes not only the material but also training and support (follow-up deliveries may take place upon request). During the reporting period January to December 2013, no request for a delivery was submitted. Among the material provided by the DDPS to international Mine Action Programs, SM EOD-Systems are the most prominent items.

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 (PiP). Having revised the courses in 2009, Switzerland now annually offers a series of courses in different fields of mine action. In the reporting period, two courses were offered by the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS) at the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) with the following topics: “Civil-Military Cooperation / Ammunition Safety and Stockpile Management” and “Quality Management in Mine Action”. The courses took place in October 2013 in Geneva.

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