No. 764-1/2018

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (Geneva Branch) and has the honour to enclose herewith the report of the Republic of Serbia in accordance with the Compliance mechanism applicable to the Convention on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) covering the year 2017.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (Geneva Branch) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 4th March 2018

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (Geneva Branch)
CCW Secretariat
Palais des Nations
Geneva
COMPLIANCE

REPORTING FORMS

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)

COVER PAGE

NAME OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY: Republic of Serbia

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: 29/03/2018
(dd/mm/yyyy)

(NOTE: the recommended deadline for submission of the national reports was fixed by the 2007 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties at 1 October of each calendar year)

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

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sector for Security Policy/Arms control Unit +381 11 306 89 36, okn@mfa.rs

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

☒ NO

☐ Partially, only the following forms: A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

NOTE: unless otherwise indicated all reports will be made public.

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;

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

CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS
(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.
- COMPLIANCE -

SUMMARY SHEET

Reporting period: from 01/01/2017 to 31/12/2017
(dd/mm/yyyy) (dd/mm/yyyy)

Form A: Dissemination of information:
☐ changed
☒ unchanged (last reporting year:) 2016

Form B: Technical requirements and relevant information:
☐ changed
☒ unchanged (last reporting year:) 2016

Form C: Legislation:
☐ changed
☒ unchanged (last reporting year:) 2016

Form D: Technical cooperation and assistance:
☒ changed
☐ unchanged (last reporting year:) 2016

Form E: Other relevant matters:
☐ changed
☒ unchanged (last reporting year:) 2016

NOTE: This Summary Sheet may be used only after the High Contracting Party has submitted its first national report pursuant to the Decision of the Third CCW Review Conference. Only the reporting forms which are indicated as „changed“ have to be submitted thereafter together with the Cover page and the Summary Sheet.
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: Republic of Serbia

Reporting period: from 01/01/2017 to 31/12/2017

☐ 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: [ ]

☐ 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: [ ]

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:

The Serbian Armed Forces have consistently applied procedures as defined in the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), and the Additional Protocol II to the CCW and there are no changes in the manner of dissemination of data to members of the Serbian Armed Forces about it.

Training of all professional members of the Serbian Armed Forces, as well as training of soldiers on voluntary military service in proper and safe handling of mines and other explosive devices that are in service in the Serbian Armed Forces is implemented on the basis of the existing rules and guidelines, which are consistent with the provisions of the CCW.

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

The Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia, as a national coordinating body in charge of humanitarian demining/mine action activities in the Republic of Serbia carries out a number of efforts to ensure that the civilians from affected communities are not injured by mines and explosive remnants of war including through the following methods:

-Marking:
The whole area suspected to be contaminated with various types of mines has been visibly marked with “STOP UXO” signs in Serbian and Albanian languages, given that it is an area with multiethnic population. Areas contaminated with cluster munitions, air bombs – rockets and other UXO, have been also marked correspondingly. Marking is conducted by the Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC) and within its regular activities the SMAC periodically visits contaminated locations making sure that these signs remain emplaced.

-Risk education;
Locals of the affected communities are being informed about demining activities through a number of means and media. Mine risk education has been conducted in schools and affected communities. In accordance with the IMAS, during demining operations, evacuation of people from houses, shops and other communal locations located within
the zone of demining works is conducted. Suspension of traffic on the roads within the zone of demining operations is conducted, too. In relation to that, the SMAC coordinates activities with local authorities, school authorities and other relevant state bodies (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Transport), local media means in communities where demining operations are conducted.

Any other relevant information:

In addition to the contamination with landmines, the Republic of Serbia suffers from additional contamination by Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) as follows:
The area of about 3,000,000 square meters is contaminated with cluster munitions.
It is assumed that since the 1999 bombing, about 150 air bombs – rockets weighing up to 930 kg are located throughout Serbia in the ground at a depth of up to 20 m.
It is suspected that after fire and explosions in military depots in Paraćin, Vranje, Kraljevo, Požarevac, Valjevo, Novi Sad, Smederevo, Raška, Gredelica, Kragujevac, outside of military objects, in an area of around 13,500,000 square meters, there are various types of ERW.
From the 1999 bombing of our country, unexploded air bombs-rockets can be found in the Sava River and the Danube River: (Bridge Bogojevo – Erdut, Bridge Bačka Palanka – Ilok, Novi Sad 1 – upstream the Sloboda bridge, Novi Sad 2- downstream the railway bridge, Pančevo Port, Transmission line Ritopek – Ivanovo, Bridge Smederevo – Kovin, Prahovo Port, Šabac, Obrenovac 1 – in the vicinity of thermal power plant, Obrenovac 2 – in the vicinity of Barić factory).
It is suspected that in the Sava River, in the area of the Jumena Village, there are improvised mines remaining from the 1999-1995 conflicts.
In the Đerdap Gorge, on the Danube River, in the vicinity of Prahovo, in 1944, German war vessels containing large quantity of unexploded ordnance, including anti-ship mines, were sunken. In 2006, a survey was conducted and the positions of 23 sunken vessels were determined as well as the existence of various types of UXO and anti-ship mines on 4 vessels. These UXO pose a threat to people and environment and significantly obstruct navigation in this part of the Danube.
Given the above and the complexity of the problem, Serbia would be interested in receiving international financial assistance for conducting clearance operations.
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: Republic of Serbia

Reporting period: from 01/01/2017 to 31/12/2017

[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

☐ additional information on steps taken to meet technical requirements of Amended Protocol II and other relevant information pertaining thereto is contained in the National Annual Report provided pursuant to paragraph 4(c) of Article 13 of Amended Protocol II for the year: __________

☐ additional information on steps taken to meet technical requirements of Protocol V and other relevant information pertaining thereto is contained in the National Report provided pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) of Article 10 of Protocol V for the year: __________

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

The Ministry of Defence and the Serbian Armed Forces do not have programmes for the development and manufacture of anti-personnel (AP) mines, booby traps and other devices which are prohibited by the Ottawa Convention.

Any other relevant information:

Measurements taken at the level of the Ministry of Defence and the Serbian Armed Forces which contribute to meeting the technical requirements of the Convention and the supplementary protocols are reflected in the fact that the assets are not available to the unauthorized persons, that are kept in the warehouses under control, and that the possibility of their use is practically eliminated.
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: Republic of Serbia

Reporting period: from 01/01/2017 to 31/12/2017

☐ additional information of legislation related to Amended Protocol II is contained in the National Annual Report provided pursuant to paragraph 4(d) of Article 13 of Amended Protocol II for the year 2017

☐ additional information on legislation related to Protocol V is contained in the National Report provided pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) of Article 10 of Protocol V for the year: 2017

Legislation, including the status and content of national legislation to prevent and suppress violations of amended Protocol II:

The Republic of Serbia, i.e. the former SFR Yugoslavia ratified in 1981 the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW).


Any other relevant information, including the regulations and policies (other than national legislation) adopted to implement the CCW's obligations and ensure compliance with its Protocols:

The Ministry of Defence regularly submits annual reports on the implementation of Article 7 of the Convention on anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war, as well as data for the annual report on the implementation of the Additional (amended) Protocol II to the CCW.

The Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia regularly submits, from its scope of works, information comprised in annual reports on the implementation of Article 7 of the Convention on anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war, as well as information for the annual report on the implementation of the Additional (amended) Protocol II to the CCW.
FORM D: Technical cooperation 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: Republic of Serbia

Reporting period: from 01/01/2017 to 31/12/2017

☐ additional information of measures taken on international technical information exchange, on international cooperation on mine clearance, and on technical cooperation and assistance is contained in the National Annual Report provided in accordance with paragraph 4(e) of Article 13 of Amended Protocol II for the year: __________

☐ additional information on measures taken on international technical cooperation and assistance is contained in the National Report provided pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) of Article 10 of Protocol V for the year: __________

International technical co-operation, including relevant experiences in seeking or providing technical assistance and cooperation:

In the previous period, the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, based on the contract concluded with NAMSA, in the period from 2005 to 2007, implemented the Project for destruction of the total quantities of anti-personnel (AP) mines in this occasion 1,404,819 pieces of AP mines were destroyed in the TRZ Kragujevac.

Out of the total amount of AP mines, the Republic of Serbia retained 5,565 pieces of AP mines for the purposes of storage and testing of protective equipment, of which 5,104 pieces for the needs of the Serbian Armed Forces, 461 pieces for the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia.

During the 2017, for purpose of training of dogs used for search for explosive, 5 antipersonnel mines are dismantled, ring the training only bodies are used (fuses are removed and destroyed).

From 2008 to 2017 on the basis of adverse technical conditions, on one hand, and for testing protective equipment on other hand, 1,970 mines were destroyed, so that the Serbian Armed Forces own 3,134 pieces of AP mines, intended for storage and testing of protective equipment.

International technical assistance:

In 2017, the United States donated to the Serbian Army the demining equipment worth $ 266,428.14, through the training of Trainers for Demining Training and Medical Staff under the Humanitarian Demining Program.

Any other relevant information:
The Ministry of Defence and the Serbian Armed Forces fully meet all the requirements and apply standards, criteria, procedures stemming from the international conventions and treaties relating to disarmament, arms control and the non-proliferation of these weapons. The Serbian Armed Forces consistently applies procedures defined in CCW and Additional Protocol II, and there are no changes compared to the previous reporting period.

Training of SAF members in proper and safe handling of mines and explosive ordnance within the armaments of the Armed Forces is realized based on existing rules and instructions, aligned with the provisions of the Protocol.
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: Republic of Serbia

Reporting period: from 01/01/2017 to 31/12/2017

☐ additional relevant information is contained in the National Annual Report provided pursuant to paragraph 4(a) of Article 13 of Amended Protocol II for the year: 

☐ additional relevant information is contained in the National Report provided pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) of Article 10 of Protocol V for the year: 

Other relevant matters:

In the Republic of Serbia, the Strategy for promoting the status of persons with disabilities, 2007-2015 is in force. The Strategy recognized their equal rights with those of other disabled persons (the rights of disabled war veterans, peacetime disabled veterans, as well as civilian disabled veterans). The Republic of Serbia is also implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Under the Law on professional rehabilitation and employment of person with disabilities, the status of a person with disabilities is granted to disabled war veterans, peacetime disabled veterans and civilian disabled veterans. This Law is based on the principles governing the protection of human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, inclusion of all persons with disabilities, on an equal footing, in all spheres of social life – in accordance with their professional skills. The Law on professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disability was adopted in our country and it entered into force on May 23, 2009. Provisions of law relating to the duties of the employer who employs fifty (50) employees to engage one person with disability entered into force on May 24, 2010. This law is based on the principles: respect for human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities; inclusion of persons with disabilities in all spheres of social life on an equal basis - in accordance with professional skills; encourage employment of persons with disabilities in appropriate jobs and appropriate working conditions; prohibiting discrimination against persons with disabilities, in accordance with the law; equal rights and obligations; gender equality of persons with disabilities.

On the basis of the law, the Rulebook on closer conditions, criteria and standards for carrying all the measures and the activities in professional rehabilitation was adopted during year 2009.

Also, the Steering Committee of the National Employment Agency adopted the Rulebook on methods and criteria for the implementation of active labour market of a persons with disabilities.