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: 15 September 2011

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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 alleviation of the plight of combatants and civilians by the formulation of rules in armed conflicts has always been a priority for Switzerland. Our country puts therefore every effort in upholding the standards set by the international law of armed conflict (LOAC) 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 the LOAC during basic training (recruit school) and in all military cadre schools; the LOAC 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 LOAC 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 soldier performing active service (i.e. national defence service, public order service, training of the armed forces, support of civil affairs, and peace support tasks) has to respect the law (including the norms of international humanitarian law (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.

The principles of distinction, necessity, legality and proportionality are implemented in the Rules of Engagement (ROE). The ROE further prohibit the use of irregular weapons and munitions by members of the Swiss Armed Forces. According to Swiss 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 on the mission and its specific ROE are handed out to every member of the deployed units.

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 EOD 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 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 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 the Federal Act on War Material.

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 (ERW), including cluster munitions. The Mine Action Strategy of the Swiss Confederation for the period 2008-2011 outlines the relevant aspects of Switzerland's contribution to mine action and the disposal of explosive remnants of war. A follow-up strategy is currently being developed.

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

Switzerland supports demining projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burundi, Chad, Kosovo, Laos, Nepal, Niger, Somaliland, Sri Lanka and Sudan. In Angola, Colombia and, Georgia, Laos, Mozambique and the Russian Federation, Switzerland provides funds for mine risk education. In the field of victim assistance, Switzerland is very active in the framework of the APMBC. Colombia and Switzerland are currently the Co-chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance in 2011 after it has held the presidency of the APMBC in 2008/2009. Switzerland worked out its strategy for the years 2008 - 2011 in order to ensure a certain durability to the actions initiated.

Swiss Mine Action specialists (both military and civilian) are deployed to UN Mine Action programs as well as to selected NGOs. In the reporting period 2011, Swiss Mine Action specialists are deployed to programs in Albania, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Laos, Nepal, Somaliland/Puntland, and Sudan, UNOPS HQ in New York and Western Sahara. Previous assignments (1999-2010), in addition to the aforementioned countries, include Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burundi, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan/Lebanon, Iraq, Kosovo, Somaliland/Puntland, Sri Lanka 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.

Among the material provided by Switzerland to international Mine Action Programs, EOD systems are the most prominent items.

Since 2000 Switzerland has been offering international training courses on the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMIA) via the channels of the Partnership for Peace Program (PiP). In the reporting period, a general course
"Humanitarian Mine Action and the Military" and for the first time a course on "Evaluation of Mine Action Programmes" were offered by the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS) at the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). Both courses took place in October 2010 in Geneva. In April 2011 the courses "Humanitarian Mine Action and the Military" and "Information Management in Military and Humanitarian Operations" took place at the GICHD in Geneva.

International technical assistance

Switzerland provides annually 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.

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

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