CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

(OTTAWA CONVENTION)

Updated information provided in accordance with article 7, paragraph 2

Switzerland

Date of submission: 30.04.2016
1. National implementation measures
No additional legal, administrative and other measures were taken during the previous cal-
endar year to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited under the Convention. See Swit-
zerland’s report submitted in 2015 for the latest information.

2. Stockpiled anti-personnel mines
This matter is not applicable since Switzerland destroyed all stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

3. Anti-personnel mines retained or transferred for permitted purposes
Switzerland does not retain or transfer anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes.

4. Areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines
The territory of Switzerland contains neither mined areas nor areas suspected to contain
mines.

5. Technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines
Not applicable.

6. Conversion or decommissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities
Not applicable.

7. Victim assistance
Not applicable.

8. Cooperation and assistance
International co-operation and assistance provided: In 2015, Switzerland attributed CHF 18.5
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:

- Support in clearance projects, projects integrating mine action into development, risk awareness campaigns and victim assistance projects mainly through financial contributions in countries and regions such as: Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Columbia, Gaza, Kosovo, Laos, Libya, Mali and Myanmar for about CHF 6.8 million.

- Provision of substantial political and financial support to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD): in the reporting period, Switzerland contributed about CHF 8.69 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 CHF 0.5 million per annum).

- Provision of experts in the fields of EOD, logistics, finance and information management to UN Mine Action Programmes. During the reporting period, experts were deployed to programmes in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Somaliland/Puntland, South Sudan and Western Sahara as well as to UNOPS and UNMAS HQ in New York and in Geneva. During the reporting period, CHF 1.74 million have been spent for the assignment of personnel. Switzerland further developed and updated its specific training courses for future experts to be sent to international Mine Action Programs with its partners GICHD and UNOPS.

- Provision of 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, no request for a delivery was submitted. Among the material provided to international Mine Action Programmes, 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 (PfP). Switzerland annually offers a series of courses in different fields of mine action. In the reporting period, Switzerland along with such partners as the GICHD and UNOPS offered seven courses with the following topics: “Ammunition Safety and Stockpile Management”, “Quality and Result Based Management in Mine Action”, “Application of IMAS”, two "A1 IMSMA-Training- courses" and two basic “Support Service Officers Courses”. The courses took place either in Spiez or Geneva (RBM-course).