

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

**PROTOCOL ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF MINES,
BOOBY-TRAPS AND OTHER DEVICES, AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996, ANNEXED
TO THE 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
(Protocol II as amended on 3 May 1996)**

REPORTING FORMATS

for Article 13 paragraph 4 and Article 11 paragraph 2

NAME OF THE HIGH
CONTRACTING PARTY: Ireland

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 22 MARCH 2013

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT: Disarmament and Non-Proliferation
Section
Department of Foreign Affairs
79 St. Stephen's Green
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Ireland
Tel. +353-1-4082392; Fax +353-1-4082383
(Organization, telephones, fax, e-mail)

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

YES

NO

Partially, only the following forms:

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

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Form A Dissemination of information

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (a)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
Depositary [...] on [...]:

(a) dissemination of information on this Protocol to their armed forces and
to the civilian population;”

Remark: N/A

High Contracting Party:

Ireland

Reporting for time period

from: **01/01/2012**

dd/mm/yyyy

to:

31/12/2012

dd/mm/yyyy

INFORMATION TO THE ARMED FORCES:

The Tactical Doctrine and the training manuals of the Defence Forces have been amended to reflect the requirements of the Amended Protocol.

INFORMATION TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION:

At the time of the Government decision to ratify Amended Protocol II and at the time of approval by Dáil Éireann (the Lower House of Parliament), information on the value of the Amended Protocol and on its obligations was made public through media releases and public statements/debates.

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Form C Technical requirements and relevant information

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (c)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depository [...] on [...]:

(c) steps taken to meet technical requirements of this Protocol and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

Ireland

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TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

As a State Party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction of 1997 (the Ottawa Convention), Ireland is subject to the general obligation not to produce or possess anti-personnel mines. However, pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 1 of that Convention, “the retention or transfer of a number of anti-personnel mines for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques is permitted.” Ireland currently possesses 61 anti-personnel mines (blast mines) for these purposes.

Defence Force manuals have been amended to take account of the technical requirements of the Amended Protocol II, and all of the mines retained conform fully with the technical requirements of Amended Protocol II.

No anti-personnel mine production facilities exist in Ireland.

ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:

The Defence Forces Corps of Engineers used 1 AP mine in training during this reporting period.

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Form E International technical information exchange, cooperation on mine clearance, technical cooperation and assistance

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (e)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
Depositary [...] on [...]:

(e) measures taken on international technical information exchange, on
international cooperation on mine clearance, and on technical cooperation
and assistance;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

Ireland

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INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE:

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON MINE CLEARANCE:

**Ireland has made substantial contributions to demining activities and mine awareness
education programmes, as well as victim assistance in some of the most severely affected
countries.**

Tables giving more details are attached at Annex I.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE:

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Form F Other relevant matters

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (f)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
Depositary [...] on [...]:

(f) other relevant matters.”

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

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OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS:

Ireland was one of the first states to ratify the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction in December 1997. Under the terms of that Convention, only a minimal stock is retained for the purposes of training and research in mine clearance techniques. Defence Force Tactical Doctrine has been amended to prohibit the use of anti-personnel mines.

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Form G Information to the UN-database on mine clearance

Article 11,
paragraph 2,

“2. Each High Contracting Party undertakes to provide information to the database on mine clearance established within the United Nations System, especially information concerning various means and technologies of mine clearance, and lists of experts, expert agencies or national points of contact on mine clearance.”

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

Ireland

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dd/mm/yyyy

MEANS AND TECHNOLOGIES OF MINE CLEARANCE:

LISTS OF EXPERTS AND EXPERT AGENCIES:

The Irish Defence Forces represent the only expertise on mine clearance in Ireland. Contact can be made through the point of contact identified on page 1.

NATIONAL POINTS OF CONTACT ON MINE CLEARANCE:

The Irish Defence Forces represent the only expertise on mine clearance in Ireland. Contact can be made through the point of contact identified on Page 1.

Tables giving more details are attached at Annex I.

EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

MINE ACTION

One of the largest impediments to rehabilitation and development in post-conflict society is the presence of landmines and explosive remnants of war. Since 1994, Ireland, through its overseas development aid programme, has been involved in funding humanitarian mine clearance operations, as well as providing support for rehabilitation programmes for mine victims and mine awareness campaigns in affected countries.

The mine action programmes supported through the overseas development programme are primarily determined by their relevance to the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance in terms of disaster relief and recovery in the field. This relevance is an essential criterion for mine action funding from these funds. Nonetheless, such mine action support in the humanitarian context is entirely consistent with Article 6 of the APLC, which commits each State party to:

- (a) provide assistance for the care, rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims and for mine awareness programmes and,
- (b) provide assistance for mine clearance and related activities.

From 2006-2012 Ireland contributed almost €25 million to humanitarian mine action programmes. Over €4.5 million of this has been spent on mine clearance programmes in Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Iraq, Lao PDR, Mozambique, Somaliland and Vietnam.

In the period covered by this annual return, 1 January 2012 -31 December 2012, a total of €1,137,739 has been assigned to Halo Trust for integrated mine clearance in, respectively, Afghanistan (€27,739), Cambodia (€500,000), Mozambique (€100,000), Somaliland (€580,000) and Zimbabwe (€30,000). €500,000 was allocated to UXO Lao for clearance activities in Lao PDR, with a further €200,000 to the Mines Advisory Group for such activities in Vietnam.

In November and December 2011 a Team comprising two experts from the Irish Defence Forces and an independent consultant conducted a review of Irish aid funded mine action programmes in Cambodia, Lao and Vietnam. The report was finalised in February 2012 and is available to interested parties through national Point of Contact above.

Ireland remains committed to providing appropriate mine action support within the framework of its humanitarian interventions, being mindful of whether such support is under threat from the potential resumption of conflict or re-mining,

as well as whether states in which support action may be considered are States Parties to the APLC.
