

**SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
STATES PARTIES TO AMENDED  
PROTOCOL II 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**

CCW/AP.II/CONF.7/NAR.3  
20 September 2005

ENGLISH ONLY

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Geneva, 23 November 2005

**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**

National annual report

Submitted in accordance with Article 13, paragraph 4 and Article 11 paragraph 2 of the  
Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines,  
Booby-Traps and Other Devices  
as Amended on 3 May 1996 to the CCW



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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	REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
DATE OF SUBMISSION	23 <sup>d</sup> of Sept, 2005
NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT	UN & International Organizations Department, The Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ph +355 436 4401, fax +355 436 2084/5
	(Organization, telephones, fax, e-mail)

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

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**Form A      Dissemination of information**

Article 13,  
paragraph 4 (a)      “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
Depository ... on:

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

*Remark:*

High Contracting Party	Republic of Albania	reporting for time period from	<b>January 2005</b>	to	<b>December 2005</b>
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Information to the armed forces

Core training includes training in mine-clearing and mine-laying to enable the individual soldier to survive during the most common situations of land-mine warfare.

Officers and NCOs education includes the legal aspect of the Amended Protocol II. Albanian troops dedicated for international operations receive relevant information through mine awareness courses.

Information to the civilian population***Information on the mine risk***

The 39 directly mine affected villages are continuously kept informed through mine risk education sessions, leaflets, posters and other activities. MRE Projects are being implemented by Victims of Mines and Weapons Association (local NGO) and the Albanian Red Cross.

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**Form B**                      **Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes**

Article 13,                      “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
paragraph 4 (b)              Depository ... on:

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;”

*Remark:*

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Mine clearance programmes

**THE MINE ACTION PROBLEM**

The mines and UXO threat in Northeast Albania emanated from the Kosovo conflict, it includes 120 km border between Albania and Kosovo, up to 20 km inside Albania. After the Albanian Armed Forces' (AAF) Level One Survey in 1999, 102 areas were identified, representing 15,250,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The threat includes AP and AT mines laid by FYR forces, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and sub-munitions from FYR rocket artillery and at least six NATO cluster strikes within Albanian territory. Since 1999, 34 people have been killed and 237 injured from mines and UXO. An added complication is that no records of minefields are available to Albania.

**ALBANIAN RESPONSE TO THE MINE CONTAMINATION PROBLEM**

After the Kosovo crisis in 1999, the Albanian Government responded swiftly in conducting rapid surface clearance, which drastically reduced civilian casualties. This was, however, not done according to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and all the areas had to be re-cleared. Shortly after, the Albanian Armed Forces conducted a Level 1 Survey, which indicated virtually the total border area to be contaminated.

In February 2000 the Government of Albania ratified (law nr. 8547 date 11/11/1999) the Convention “On the Ban of Use Storage, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction”. In the mean time, the Albanian Government decided to adopt IMAS and *establish the structure to implement humanitarian mine action in Albania*. The Albanian Mine Action Committee (AMAC)- an inter-ministerial body - was formed in October 1999 as *the overall executive and policy - making body for mine action*. At the same time, an operational body - *the Albanian Mine Action Executive (AMAE)* - was established to carry out the mine action programme under direction of the AMAC.

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### **CAPACITY BUILDING AND MONITORING**

A Capacity Building Project started in 2002 by UNDP and has been funded by various donors as UNDP, EU, US State Department through the International Trust Fund in Slovenia, DFID/UK and the Governments of Canada, Turkey etc. In this framework, UNDP has currently employed one Chief Technical Advisor, a Quality Management Advisor as in-kind donation from the Swiss General Staff and a Mines Survivors Advisor. With this assistance, a fully functional AMAE has been established, including an integral Quality Management (QM) Section with a regional office in North East Albania. The AMAE QM Team conducts Quality Assurance (monitoring) and Quality Control (sampling) of the clearance operations and operates under the AMAE Technical Safety Standards which are based on IMAS (International Mine Action Standards).

### **HUMANITARIAN DEMINING**

From 2000 to 2005, various de-mining organizations as RONCO, HELP, Swiss Foundation for De-mining (FSD), and Danish Church Aid (DCA-Act) have been present in Albania conducting mine and UXO clearance operations and about 11 million m2 of formerly contaminated land has been released by these organizations and then certified mine free and handed over to the community. In 2005, there is only one de-mining organization working in the country (Danish Church Aid) implementing two survey and clearance projects. In support to the mine action operations, a functional Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Cell is established since 2003 with ITF and Swiss assistance.

### **Rehabilitation programmes**

Since 1999, 34 people have been killed and 237 injured as a result of mines and UXO accidents. A broad integrated victim assistance strategy was adopted in 2002 with the goal of building a sustainable Albanian mine victims assistance capability by 2006.

Major achievements in the area of mine victims assistance are:

- 97 amputees have been treated for prostheses and rehabilitation at the Slovenian Rehabilitation Institute with ITF/US State Dept since 2001.
- 32 mine victims have been assisted in establishing home-based economies with revolving loans and technical support funded by the US State Department through ITF.
- As a result of the humanitarian event, "Night of Thousand Dinners" hosted by the US Embassy, in December 2003, 5 child mine survivors have been assisted in continuing their studies, 5 mine victims and their families in establishing home-based economies, and 2 sight impaired mine victims with medical treatment/surgery within Albania.
- Foundations have been laid for the establishment of a Community Based Rehabilitation network and 30 nurses residing in mine-affected villages have received training in physiotherapy, counselling and rehabilitation by medical specialists from the Slovenia Institute of Rehabilitation with UNDP and DfID support.
- A prosthetic technician has commenced an intensive 2-year training programme in India with ICRC-SFD support.

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**Form C      Technical requirements and relevant information**

Article 13,      “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
paragraph 4 (c)      Depository ... on:

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

*Remark:*

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Technical requirements

Republic of Albania has taken all the steps necessary to meet the technical requirements of the Protocol. All devices in the inventory of the Albanian Armed Forces comply fully with the technical provisions of the Amended Protocol II.

Any other relevant information

**None**

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**Form D      Legislation**

Article 13,      “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
paragraph 4 (d)      Depository ... on:

(d) legislation related to this Protocol;”

*Remark:*

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Legislation

In February 2000 the Government of Albania ratified (law nr. 8547 date 11/11/1999) the Convention “On the Ban of Use Storage, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction”.

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

Article 13,                    “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
paragraph 4 (e)            Depository ... on:

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

*Remark:*

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<p><u>International technical information exchange</u> Technical information is exchanged with regional mine action centers as BHMAC, CROMAC, RCUD, MDDC, UNMACC in Kosovo through the South East Europe Mine Action Coordination Council(SEEMACC), and international organizations involved in mine action as the United Nations Mine Action Service, Geneva International Center for Humanitarian De-mining etc.</p>
<p><u>International cooperation on mine clearance</u> There is an excellent cooperation between the Albanian Mine Action Executive and other regional/international centers or institutions as the International Trust Fund of Slovenia on De-mining and Mine Victim Assistance, the Regional Mine Detection Dogs Center, Kosovo Mine Action Center (UNMACC) in assisting the mine clearance operations ongoing in northeast Albania.</p>
<p><u>International co-operation on technical co-operation and assistance</u> A good cooperation exists also with international institutions involved in mine action as the United Nations Mine Action Service and Geneva International Center for Humanitarian De-mining or other governments which provide guidance on the implementation of the International Mine Action Standards and other technical expertise.</p>

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**Form F**      **Other relevant matters**

Article 13,  
paragraph 4 (f)      “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
Depository ... on:

(f) other relevant matters.”

*Remark:*

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Other relevant matters

Albania is a member of The Convention on The Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (The Mine Ban Treaty).

The last anti-personnel mine (APL) of 1.683.860 was demilitarized on 4<sup>th</sup> of April, 2002, 2 years ahead of obligatory period in terms of Ottawa Treaty.

Albania has opted not to retain any antipersonnel mines for purposes permitted by article 3 of the treaty. Therefore, the entire stockpile has been destroyed.

Albania does not manufacture, import or export mines.

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**Form G                      Information to the UN-database on mine clearance**

Article 11,  
paragraph 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.”

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<u>Means and technologies of mine clearance</u> Methods used for mine clearance in Albania since 2000 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Manual Clearance</li><li>- Mine Detection Dogs</li><li>- Mechanical Clearance (BOZENA and ML1)</li></ul>
<u>Lists of experts and experts agencies</u>  N/A
<u>National points of contact on mine clearance</u> <u>Arben Braha</u> <u>Albanian Mine Action Executive</u> Tel/Fax. 003554373780 Mob.00355692094629 Email. <a href="mailto:amaealbania@amae.org.al">amaealbania@amae.org.al</a> Website: <a href="http://www.amae.org.al">www.amae.org.al</a>

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