

**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.32
14 October 2005

ENGLISH ONLY

Geneva, 23 November 2005

IRELAND

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

GE.05-63858

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 3 October, 2005

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Section
Department of Foreign Affairs,
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(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

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	<u>Ireland</u>	reporting for time period from	<u>1 October</u> <u>2004</u>	to	<u>30 September</u> <u>2005</u>
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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.

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:

High Contracting Party	<u>Ireland</u>	reporting for time period from	<u>1 October</u> <u>2004</u>	to	<u>30 September</u> <u>2005</u>
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Mine clearance programmes

There are no mined areas in Ireland.

Rehabilitation programmes

N/A

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:

High Contracting Party	<u>Ireland</u>	reporting for time period from	1 October <u>2004</u>	to	<u>30 September</u> <u>2005</u>
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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 79 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 Army Engineer Corps used 22 mines in training during this reporting period.

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:

High Contracting Party	<u>Ireland</u>	reporting for time period from	<u>1 October</u> <u>2004</u>	to	<u>30 September</u> <u>2005</u>
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Legislation

There have been no legislative developments since Ireland furnished its last annual report.

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:

High Contracting Party	<u>Ireland</u>	reporting for time period from	<u>1 October 2004</u>	to	<u>30 September 2005</u>
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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.

International co-operation on technical co-operation and assistance

Form F Other relevant matters

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

(f) other relevant matters.”

Remark:

High Contracting Party	<u>Ireland</u>	reporting for time period from	1 October <u>2004</u>	to	30 September <u>2005</u>
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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.

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.”

High Contracting Party Ireland reporting for time period from 1 October 2004 to 30 September 2005

Means and technologies of mine clearance

Lists of experts and experts 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

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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 emergency & recovery budgets are primarily determined by their relevance to the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance in terms of disaster relief and recovery in the field. This connectedness 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 Ottawa Convention 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.

For the past decade, Halo Trust has been Ireland's main partner in relation to de-mining activities and Ireland has now entered into more strategic long term support for the organisation through annual block grants for activities in four countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Eritrea and Somalia. This approach will provide the organisation with the flexibility to better prioritise needs and to engage in more long term planning.

Since 2000, Ireland has spent almost €10 million on a wide variety of de-mining and rehabilitation projects as part of its humanitarian assistance programmes. Funding has been disbursed through a variety of channels and has been specifically focused on countries such as Angola, Cambodia and Afghanistan, which have been particularly badly affected by landmines.

In 2005 to date: €1.5 million has been allocated to Halo Trust for international de-mining projects in Afghanistan, Somalia and Angola. In 2004, Ireland provided funding from the overseas development aid, bilateral country programme with Mozambique for mine action programmes in the Niassa Region (receiving €260,000) and the Inhambane Region (receiving €250,000). In terms of emergency assistance given in the 2004 reporting period, €1.5 million was allocated to Halo Trust for an international de-mining project. In addition, Handicap International was allocated €130,000 for a mine risk education programme in Somalia, as well as €250,000 for a similar programme in Afghanistan.

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 *Ottawa Convention*.
