

**NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
HIGH CONTRACTING 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.9/NAR.23
7 November 2007

ENGLISH ONLY

Geneva, 6 November 2007

Item 10 of the agenda

**Consideration of matters arising from
reports by High Contracting Parties
according to paragraph 4 of Article 13
of the Amended Protocol II**

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

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 2 November 2007

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Section
Department of Foreign Affairs,
Tel. +353-1-4082972; Fax +353-1-4082383

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
Depositary ... 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 2006</u>	to	<u>30 September 2007</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) Depositary ... on:

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party	<u>IRELAND</u>	reporting for time period from	<u>1 October 2006</u>	to	<u>30 September 2007</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	<u>1 October 2006</u>	to	<u>30 September 2007</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 73 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 2 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) Depositary ... on:

(d) legislation related to this Protocol;”

Remark:

High Contracting		reporting for time	1 October		30 September
Party	<u>IRELAND</u>	period from	<u>2006</u>	to	2007

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) 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	<u>IRELAND</u>	reporting for time period from	<u>1 October 2006</u>	to	<u>30 September 2007</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	<u>1 October 2006</u>	to	<u>30 September 2007</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	<u>IRELAND</u>	reporting for time period from	<u>1 October 2006</u>	to	<u>30 September 2007</u>
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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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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 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 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 three countries: Afghanistan, Angola, 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 some €15 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 the period covered by this annual return, a total of €1.725 million has been assigned to Halo Trust for integrated mine clearance in, respectively, Angola €525,000; Somalia €500,000; Afghanistan €700,000. A further €776,103 has been allocated to Mines Advisory Group for land mine clearance in Iraq. Handicap International was provided with funding of €200,000 for community based rehabilitation in Angola and €188,000 for mine risk education in Somalia. Ireland also contributed €26,000 to the Jordanian National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation.

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*.
