

# **REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**



## **ARTICLE 7 REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2011**

**To the Secretary General of the United Nations**

**On the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of  
Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction**

**Ministry of Defence**

**April 2012**

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

**Reporting Formats for Article 7**

STATE [PARTY]:

**ALBANIA**

POINT OF CONTACT:

---

Albanian Mines and Munitions Coordination Office (AMMCO)

---

Tel/Fax. 00355 42 269 280

Email: [amaealbania@amae.org.al](mailto:amaealbania@amae.org.al)

Website: [www.amae.org.al](http://www.amae.org.al)

**Form A National implementation measures**

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:  
a) The national implementation measures referred to in Article 9."

*Remark:* In accordance with Article 9, "Each State Party shall take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Convention undertaken by persons or on territory under its jurisdiction or control".

State [Party]: ALBANIA reporting for time period from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011

Measures	Supplementary information (e.g., effective date of implementation & text of legislation attached).
<b>No change. For most recent information please see Article 7 Report for year 2006.</b>	

**Form B Stockpiled anti-personnel mines**

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:  
 b) The total of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed by it, or under its jurisdiction or control, to include a breakdown of the type, quantity and, if possible, lot numbers of each type of anti-personnel mine stockpiled."

State [Party]: ALBANIA reporting for time period from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011

1. Total of stockpiled anti-personnel mines

Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
N/A			<b>Albania has completed the destruction of its APM stockpile since 4 April 2002.</b>
TOTAL			

2. Previously unknown stockpiles of anti-personnel mines discovered after the deadlines have passed. *(Action #15 of Nairobi Action Plan)* \*

Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
N/A			<b>No previously unknown APM stockpiles have been discovered.</b>
TOTAL			

\* Pursuant to the decision of the 8MSP, as contained in paragraph 29 of the Final Report of the Meeting, document APLC/MSP.8/2007/6.

**Form C      Location of mined areas**

Article 7.1    "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:  
                   c) To the extent possible, the location of all mined areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines under its jurisdiction or control, to include as much detail as possible regarding the type and quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine in each mined area and when they were emplaced."

State [Party]: ALBANIA reporting for time period from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011

1. Areas that contain mines\*

Location	Type	Quantity	Date of emplacement	Supplementary information
N/A				<b>Albania completed clearance of all known anti-personnel mine contaminated areas in its territory by October 2009. For more details, please check Albania Article 7 Report for the year 2009.</b>

2. Areas suspected to contain mines\*

Location	Type	Quantity	Date of emplacement	Supplementary information
N/A				

\* If necessary, a separate table for each mined area may be provided

**Form D APMs retained or transferred**

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

d) The types, quantities and, if possible, lot numbers of all anti-personnel mines retained or transferred for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques, or transferred for the purpose of destruction, as well as the institutions authorized by a State Party to retain or transfer anti-personnel mines, in accordance with Article 3"

State [Party]: ALBANIA reporting for time period from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011

1a. **Compulsory:** Retained for development of and training in (*Article 3, para.1*)

Institution authorized by State Party	Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
N/A				Albania has decided not to retain any anti-personnel mines for training purposes.
TOTAL	-----			

1b. **Voluntary information** (*Action #54 of Nairobi Action Plan*)

Objectives	Activity / Project	Supplementary information <i>(Description of programs or activities, their objectives and progress, types of mines, time period if and when appropriate...)</i>
N/A		"Information on the plans requiring the retention of mines for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques and report on the actual use of retained mines and the results of such use"

NOTE: Each State Party should provide information on plans and future activities if and when appropriate and reserves the right to modify it at any time.

**Form D** (continued)

**2. Compulsory:** Transferred for development of and training in (*Article 3, para.1*)

Institution authorized by State Party	Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information: e.g. transferred from, transferred to
N/A				
TOTAL	-----			

**3. Compulsory:** Transferred for the purpose of destruction (*Article 3, para.2*)

Institution authorized by State Party	Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information: e.g. transferred from, transferred to
N/A				
TOTAL	-----			

**Form E      Status of programs for conversion or de-commissioning of APM production facilities**

Article 7.1      "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:  
                         e) The status of programs for the conversion or de-commissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities."

State [Party]: ALBANIA reporting for time period from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011

Indicate if to "convert" or "decommission"	Status (indicate if "in process" or "completed")	Supplementary information
<b>N/A</b>		



**Form F      Status of programs for destruction of APMs**

Article 7.1      "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:  
    f) The status of programs for the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Articles 4 and 5,  
    including details of the methods which will be used in destruction, the location of all destruction sites and the  
    applicable safety and environmental standards to be observed."

State [Party]: ALBANIA reporting for time period from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011

1. Status of programs for destruction of stockpiled APMs (*Article 4*)

Description of the status of programs including:	Details of:
Location of destruction sites	
Albania has completed the destruction of its stockpiled APMs since April 2002. For details refer to Article 7 Report for year 2002.	Methods
	Applicable safety standards
	Applicable environmental standards

2. Status of programs for destruction of APMs in mined areas (*Article 5*)

Description of the status of programs including:	Details of:
Location of destruction sites	
<b>N/A</b>	Methods
	Applicable safety standards
	Applicable environmental standards

**Form G APMs destroyed after entry into force**

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:  
 g) The types and quantities of all anti-personnel mines destroyed after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party, to include a breakdown of the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine destroyed, in accordance with Articles 4 and 5, respectively, along with, if possible, the lot numbers of each type anti-personnel mine in the case of destruction in accordance with Article 4"

State [Party]: ALBANIA reporting for time period from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011

1. Destruction of stockpiled APMs (*Article 4*)

Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
N/A			
TOTAL			

2. Destruction of APMs in mined areas (*Article 5*)

Type	Quantity	Supplementary information
N/A		

**Form G** (continued)

3. Previously unknown stockpiles of anti-personnel mines discovered and destroyed after the deadlines have passed. (*Action #15 of Nairobi Action Plan*)\*

Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
N/A			
TOTAL			

---

\* Pursuant to the decision of the 8MSP, as contained in paragraph 29 of the Final Report of the Meeting, document APLC/MSP.8/2007/6.

**Form H      Technical characteristics of each type produced/owned or possessed**

Article 7.1      "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

h) The technical characteristics of each type of anti-personnel mine produced, to the extent known, and those currently owned or possessed by a State Party, giving, where reasonably possible, such categories of information as may facilitate identification and clearance of anti-personnel mines; at a minimum, this information shall include the dimensions, fusing, explosive content, metallic content, colour photographs and other information which may facilitate mine clearance"

State [Party]: ALBANIA reporting for time period from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011

1. Technical characteristics of each APM-type produced

Type	Dimensions	Fusing	Explosive content		Metallic content	Colour photo attached	Supplementary information to facilitate mine clearance.
			type	grams			
N/A							

2. Technical characteristics of each APM-type currently owned or possessed

Type	Dimensions	Fusing	Explosive content		Metallic content	Colour photo attached	Supplementary information to facilitate mine clearance.
			type	grams			
N/A							

**Form I      Measures to provide warning to the population**

Article 7.1      "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:  
                    i) The measures taken to provide an immediate and effective warning to the population in relation to all areas identified under paragraph 2 of Article 5."

*Remark:* In accordance with Article 5, para.2: "Each State Party shall make every effort to identify all areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced and shall ensure as soon as possible that all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control are perimeter-marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians, until all anti-personnel mines contained therein have been destroyed. The marking shall at least be to the standards set out in the 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".

State [Party]: ALBANIA reporting for time period from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011

N/A

## **Form J      Other relevant matters**

Remark: States Parties may use this form to report voluntarily on other relevant matters, including matters pertaining to compliance and implementation not covered by the formal reporting requirements contained in Article 7. States Parties are encouraged to use this form to report on activities undertaken with respect to Article 6, and in particular to report on assistance provided for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims.

State [Party]: ALBANIA reporting for time period from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011

### **1.      VICTIM ASSISTANCE**

Victims' assistance activities covered various range of support for 2011 to the mine/ERW survivors and other persons with disabilities in Albania including: emergency assistance and ongoing healthcare, physical rehabilitation and provision of prostheses, and their socio-economic reintegration. These activities were monitored and coordinated by AMMCO and carried out in cooperation with various implementing partners including the ministries of Health and of Education and Sciences, Kukës Regional Hospital, Directorates of Public Health in Kukes, UNDP, International Trust Fund (ITF) Slovenia, Handicap International, University Rehabilitation Institute Republic of Slovenia and the NGO "Albanian Association for Assistance Integration and Development" (ALB-AID),

#### **➤ Access to Physical & Medical Rehabilitation (PMR) in Albania- The final phase**

In 2006, ITF launched a five – year project that aimed at supporting Albanian authorities in developing a proper Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PMR) system on the national level in mid term perspective, while developing a sustainable response to the PMR needs of landmine victims in the mine –affected region of Kukes Albania. The third and last phase of this project was again funded by US DoS and implemented by Handicap International France.

The main activities which were monitored and coordinated by AMMCO during the project period include:

- A sustainable Physiotherapy Educational program based on European standards is being implemented by the Nursing Faculty of Tirana.
- 30 students graduated in 2011 and other 25 students were registered for the academic year 2011-2012.
- Technical support in building the prosthetic capacities was provided to the two technicians of the Prosthetic Workshop in Kukes Regional Hospital. The rehabilitation unit is fully functional, providing services for amputees including landmine survivors

and other persons with disabilities. Under the technical assistance of Handicap International, 20 new prostheses were produced in Kukes and at least 75 major repairs were performed during 2011 for the survivors and other amputees in need. More than 400 patients benefited from the services provided by this PMR unit (including physiotherapy and P&O services);

➤ **Medical training and Physical Rehabilitation of amputees in Slovenia**

The project assisted two amputees classified as difficult cases – upper limb amputees, who cannot be assisted in Albania with prostheses and physical rehabilitation. In addition prosthetic & orthotic technicians from the prosthetic workshop in Kukes hospital attended study visit to University Rehabilitation Institute of Slovenia in order to upgrade the skills in the fields of Prostheses & Orthoses.

➤ **Socio-economic reintegration initiative for the survivors of Gerdec explosion**

The project aims to directly support the reintegration of the survivors or their family members from the explosion of the ammunition depot in Gerdec. The project was funded by the US DoS through ITF and implemented by the national NGO ALB-AID.

The achievements of this project during 2011 included:

- 126 pupils completed English and Computer Courses. 60.3 % were girls.
- 229 children attended recreation-sport activities.
- 8 Round tables for children's rights and PWD organized with 119 school children.
- 435 leaflets on children's rights and PWD were distributed during the round tables
- 61 psycho-social sessions conducted with children.
- 58.5 % of children who participated in all project activities were girls

➤ **International Symposium on Cooperation and Assistance**

As announced at the Tenth Meetings of the States Parties, Albania from 30 May to 1 June 2011, organized an International Symposium on enhancing cooperation and assistance in the pursuit of the victim assistance.

Over 100 participants from at least 32 countries and several international and national organizations involved in mine action and more specifically in the areas of victim assistance participated in the three-day symposium.

The first day the participants attended a field trip to Kukes to visit the prosthetic workshop, physiotherapy unit and surgical capacities, to see the enhanced equipment capacities to support mine survivors as well as other people in need in Kukës region.

The field trip activities were followed by a photo exhibition and a presentation on the progress made in assisting mine survivors and other persons with disabilities. During the day, the participants had the possibility to explore the good cooperation between the government and donors in order to build the rehabilitation capacities in Kukes region.

The symposium activities were followed by a plenary session in Tirana with focus on the following topics:

- *Session #1: Opportunities presented by Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) to enhance victim assistance-related efforts*
- *Session #2: The role of development cooperation*
- *Session #3: National capacity and national ownership*
- *Session #4: The importance of peer support and psycho-social rehabilitation*

The conclusions drawn from the discussions at the symposium include:

- The understandings to victim assistance have well developed, including that it must be provided to all people in need; mine victims or persons with disabilities on different nature or cause.
- The CRPD provides a solid legal ground for the rights of the victims, extending the concept of the victim also to the families of the affected people, and providing overall guidance.
- The States Parties to the APMBC have the responsibility to establish proper national capacities and facilities to assist the persons with disabilities, on the other hand, there is need to increase awareness among the persons with disabilities regarding their rights and how they may claim them. The role of the civic society it will be a crucial one in here.
- No discrimination at services and facilities between persons with disabilities and mine victims. They must all benefit from established services and facilities.
- While fulfilling the responsibilities under these Conventions, there should be applying the principle of inclusive development. And it was highlighted repeatedly that inclusive development can be achieved through a twin-track approach to disability – with disability considered in all development efforts and with targeted interventions to empower persons with disabilities, including landmine survivors.
- With regard to the role of national capacities and national ownership, it was emphasised the need of the cooperation between partners in international, national and local level.



- Making best use of the existing capacities and proper coordination between interested actors remains an important matter of concern.
- From the last session, we benefited from a comprehensive overview of the importance of psychosocial support as part of victim assistance and the particular value of peer support activities.
- Participants expressed a concern in regards to the further support provide to victim assistance activities, while the article 5 (clearance) obligations are met. There is a need to continue supporting the victim assistance activities at all levels.

## **2. UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE HOTSPOTS CLEARANCE**

- During the civil unrest in Albania in March 1997 and later, there were a number of explosions at Ammunition Storage Sites (ASS) across Albania. According to Albanian Armed Forces (AAF) estimates at the time, 38 army depots (storages) were destroyed due to the detonation of about 5,700 tons of ammunition in 15 different locations. The explosions killed and injured many civilians while thrown-out ammunition contaminated vast areas around the ASS.

Exploded ammunition was partially left in a very dangerous state on the ground, which led to death, injuries and tragedies of innocent civilians in the following months and years. The AAF conducted surface clearance operations of these “hotspots” but these were not conducted based on humanitarian standards, therefore not going beyond surface clearance. The areas still contain live and dumped ammunition, which attracts metal scrap collectors. Thus, new accidents have been recorded in these areas even years after surface clearance has been declared completed.

The present ammunition hotspots include also few former army ammunition demolition areas and shooting or firing ranges polygons (former shooting & training sites), which have been closed down recently by the AAF. Most of these areas need a full subsurface clearance according to International Mine Action Standards for any remaining ammunition threat. According to estimates from the Albanian Mine Action Executive (AMAE), there have been at least 971 abandoned explosive ordnance casualties (143 killed and 828 injured) all over Albania.

- The Ministry of Defense requested the UNDP Albania, to provide assistance the other emergent priority of hotspots clearance and ammunition disposal, by recognizing its crucial role to the successful implementation of the Mine Action Programme in Albania. The requested support consisted of engaging AMAE as a professional structure to contribute through a similar institutional arrangement and role, inclusive of its know-how in mine victim assistance and risk education/community liaison activities, in the area of hotspots clearance and ammunition disposal, so as to help ensure that these components are brought up and carried out in accordance with the International Humanitarian Standards.

In addition, a UNDP BCPR Mine Action Team internal assessment in 2010 determined that AMAE, as a mine action monitoring and coordination body, could use its skills and unique expertise in the country, to support the Ministry of Defense with the implementation of ammunition hotspots clearance and disposal, in addition to playing an ongoing role in mine victim assistance and addressing any potential for residual mine or UXO threats. The Assessment Team findings strongly supported this transition based on the clear need for introduction of humanitarian standards and external monitoring to ensure the safe disposal of ammunition stockpiles and survey and clearance of hotspot areas.

Responding to this situation, a framework of assistance and plan of action was developed and agreed. UNDP commenced a gradual conversion of the Albanian Mine Action Executive (AMAE) to the Albanian Mines and Ammunition Coordination Office (AMMCO) reflecting its new role and mandate. Based on this new role AMMCO is responsible for:

- Coordination and monitoring of UXO hotspot clearance, risk education and victim assistance.
- Reviewing existing standards on safety, Quality Assurance and Quality Control, community liaison, operations, accreditation and risk education for ammunition disposal and hotspot clearance and upgrading them to international standards
- Conducting a detailed technical and socio-economic impact assessment of the remaining ammunition hotspots;
- Developing a plan for clearing all hotspot areas based on the assessments;
- Adopting mechanisms for ensuring quality assurance and quality control of hotspots clearance in assigned locations;
- Developing adequate public awareness and risk education mechanisms for local communities in hotspot areas;
- Expanding Albania's existing victim assistance programme to include ERW survivors for possible assistance schemes; and
- Establishing a national database for mines/ abandoned ammunition victims throughout Albania.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in November 2011, which laid down all aspects of the proposed assistance by UNDP and the respective contributions by both the Ministry of Defense and UNDP. Relevant training and standard operating procedures were developed reflecting AMMCO's new role and mandate. The Mine Action Data Management System (IMSMA) was adapted for the ammunition hotspots programme, which ensures accountability and transparency of the clearance process.

AMMCO has completed technical and socio-economic impact assessments for 15 unexploded ordnance (UXO) hotspots out of 18 identified hotspots throughout Albania. More than 1,8 million square meters were identified as dangerous in 10 of these hotspots, due to the presence of ammunitions remnants. Clearance operations were completed in one of the highly contaminated hotspots (Ura e Gjadrit-Shkoder) monitored by the AMMCO Quality Management Team. A total area of **93, 000** square meters was cleared and ammunition found include: **509** artillery ammunition, **877** fuses, **209** hand grenades, **184** mortar shells, **18** RPGs, **19,681** small arms ammunition.

The Government is committed to address the clearance of all ERW/AXO hotspots throughout Albania areas based on the International Humanitarian Standards and return to the population for productive use by end 2014.