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PROPOSALS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION CONCERNING PARTICIPATION IN HUMANITARIAN DEMINING OPERATIONS

Russia regards mine problem as an acute and complicated issue. The problems of landmine stockpiles destruction are being solved in Russia on the state level in accordance with the Presidential Decree on Humanitarian Demining.

In particular, in order to provide a higher effectiveness of stockpile destruction process, a Scientific Production Association "Ecodem" (Ecological Demilitarization) has been established by a number of state agencies including the RF Ministry of Defense, Russian Federal Agency of Munitions among other organizations. The SPA "Ecodem" is to accumulate existing Russian scientific, industrial and intellectual potential for a better and comprehensive solution of mine problems. The next important step will be the establishment of the Russian Federal Foundation for Mine Demilitarization.

In accordance with the CCW Protocol II and MBT the solving of the mine problem in Russia is proceeding along two major guidelines, namely mine-clearance of territories infested with landmines and UXO and simultaneous destruction of banned types of landmines.

The present report highlights perspectives of Russian participation in humanitarian demining operations. These perspectives are based on the following grounds:

- The Russian deminers have gained a comprehensive and accurate database of technical design and methods of demining (demilitarization) of an extensive landmine nomenclature.
- The Russian organizations and companies have gained a multiyear experience of demining in more than 20 countries worldwide.

- During the last decade the Russian engineers and non-governmental demining organizations demine and destroy/demilitarize more than 100,000 landmines and UXOs annually which comprises a significant part of the international efforts on demining of dangerous remnants of war.
- Russia has developed and currently produces a large variety of effective mine/UXO search and detection tools, including deeply lying landmines and UXOs. This equipment was tested in combat, counter-terrorist and peacekeeping operations and has been highly evaluated by specialists.

Much attention is also paid to highly effective demining equipment of the new generation, such as helicopter mounted complexes of remote mine surveillance, on-ground wide range mine detector based on nuclear-physical methods of mine detection, mobile under-surface georadars, gas analyzers. Training of demining teams with the use of this equipment is underway. Also there are means of mechanic mine-sweeping including those applied in combination with electromagnetic flails, as well as means of shock-wave demining which are constantly being modernized. A special interest should be paid to a new class complex – armoured demining vehicle BMR-3M. It is characterized with reinforced armoured protection, improved safety of the crew, comfortable conditions, combination of a number of flailing devices differing in physical operational principles.

A special deminer's protective engineer gear including protective footwear successfully passed testing. This gear ensures high safety and protection against fragmentation and blast APMs.

An extensive experience of the use of demining teams has been collected and is still developed in Russia. Apparent is not only their wide-scale integration into engineer units, but further elaboration of methodical training basis.

Availability of intellectual potential and practical experience in Russia makes further improvement and development of mine and other explosive ordnance search, detection, clearing and destruction methods, as well as those of demining operations' planning and optimization both in limited areas and large territories as well as ecological safety of demining and stockpile destruction possible.

Besides Russia has preserved the infrastructure providing basis and back-up for the demining operations, including a network of depots and arsenal facilities. This network can be utilized also for munitions' demilitarization purposes too.

Russia has got a high-professional and extensive scientific and teaching/training staff for training deminers. A modern training technical and testing sites' basis is also available. A number of training centers and higher military schools are involved in the training of deminers. Training of demining teams is performed by the special methodical dog-training center.

Scientific research, training and testing organizations have gained a significant number of specialists with practical demining experience in various conditions, as well as the one of developing and testing modern tools of mine surveillance, detection and clearance.

Hence, recognizing relevance and complexity of mine/UXO clearance tasks, we, in cooperation with the world community, are prepared to take part in the following activities:

- To offer training of humanitarian demining personnel;
- To offer means of mine/UXO surveillance, detection and clearance;
- To conduct joint R&D, testing and certification of humanitarian demining means;
- To offer well-trained and experienced specialists of different level for humanitarian demining operations;
- To utilize information-analytical system of planning, organization and control of humanitarian demining operations;
- To undertake further efforts for improvement of methods and techniques of mine and remnants of war's search and clearance.

We are open for cooperation in humanitarian demining field with state, public and commercial organizations.

Thank You for Your attention.

