

**2. a) Additional Protocol 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 IV, entitled Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons)**

*Vienna, 13 October 1995*

**ENTRY INTO FORCE:** 30 July 1998, in accordance with article 2 of the Additional Protocol.

**REGISTRATION:** 30 July 1998, No. 22495.

**STATUS:** Parties: 110.

**TEXT:** United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1380, p. 370; [Doc. CCW/CONF.I/16 Part I](#)).

*Note:* At its 8 plenary meeting on 13 October 1995, the Conference of the States Parties 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 adopted pursuant to article 8.3 (b) of the Convention an additional Protocol entitled "Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV)".

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Consent to be bound(P), Succession(d)</i>	<i>Participant</i>	<i>Consent to be bound(P), Succession(d)</i>
Afghanistan.....	9 Aug 2017 P	Cyprus.....	22 Jul 2003 P
Albania.....	28 Aug 2002 P	Czech Republic.....	10 Aug 1998 P
Algeria.....	6 May 2015 P	Denmark.....	30 Apr 1997 P
Antigua and Barbuda.....	23 Aug 2010 P	Dominican Republic.....	21 Jun 2010 P
Argentina.....	21 Oct 1998 P	Ecuador.....	16 Dec 2003 P
Australia.....	22 Aug 1997 P	El Salvador.....	26 Jan 2000 P
Austria.....	27 Jul 1998 P	Estonia.....	20 Apr 2000 P
Bahrain.....	11 Mar 2016 P	Finland.....	11 Jan 1996 P
Bangladesh.....	6 Sep 2000 P	France.....	30 Jun 1998 P
Belarus.....	13 Sep 2000 P	Gabon.....	22 Sep 2010 P
Belgium.....	10 Mar 1999 P	Georgia.....	14 Jul 2006 P
Benin.....	27 Sep 2019 P	Germany.....	27 Jun 1997 P
Bolivia (Plurinational State of).....	21 Sep 2001 P	Greece.....	5 Aug 1997 P
Bosnia and Herzegovina.....	11 Oct 2001 P	Grenada.....	10 Dec 2014 P
Brazil.....	4 Oct 1999 P	Guatemala.....	30 Aug 2002 P
Bulgaria.....	3 Dec 1998 P	Guinea-Bissau.....	6 Aug 2008 P
Burkina Faso.....	26 Nov 2003 P	Holy See.....	22 Jul 1997 P
Cabo Verde.....	16 Sep 1997 P	Honduras.....	30 Oct 2003 P
Cambodia.....	25 Mar 1997 P	Hungary.....	30 Jan 1998 P
Cameroon.....	7 Dec 2006 P	Iceland.....	22 Aug 2008 P
Canada.....	5 Jan 1998 P	India.....	2 Sep 1999 P
Chile.....	15 Oct 2003 P	Iraq.....	24 Sep 2014 P
China.....	4 Nov 1998 P	Ireland.....	27 Mar 1997 P
Colombia.....	6 Mar 2000 P	Israel.....	30 Oct 2000 P
Costa Rica.....	17 Dec 1998 P	Italy.....	13 Jan 1999 P
Croatia.....	25 Apr 2002 P	Jamaica.....	25 Sep 2008 P
Cuba.....	14 Nov 2012 P	Japan.....	10 Jun 1997 P

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Consent to be bound(P), Succession(d)</i>	<i>Participant</i>	<i>Consent to be bound(P), Succession(d)</i>
Kazakhstan.....	8 Jul 2009 P	Philippines .....	12 Jun 1997 P
Kuwait .....	24 May 2013 P	Poland .....	23 Sep 2004 P
Latvia .....	11 Mar 1998 P	Portugal.....	12 Nov 2001 P
Lesotho .....	25 Apr 2016 P	Qatar .....	16 Nov 2009 P
Liberia.....	16 Sep 2005 P	Republic of Moldova .....	8 Sep 2000 P
Liechtenstein.....	19 Nov 1997 P	Romania.....	25 Aug 2003 P
Lithuania.....	3 Jun 1998 P	Russian Federation .....	9 Sep 1999 P
Luxembourg.....	5 Aug 1999 P	Saudi Arabia .....	7 Dec 2007 P
Madagascar .....	14 Mar 2008 P	Serbia .....	12 Aug 2003 P
Maldives .....	7 Sep 2000 P	Seychelles .....	8 Jun 2000 P
Mali.....	24 Oct 2001 P	Sierra Leone.....	30 Sep 2004 P
Malta.....	24 Sep 2004 P	Singapore .....	21 Sep 2023 P
Mauritius.....	24 Dec 2002 P	Slovakia .....	30 Nov 1999 P
Mexico .....	10 Mar 1998 P	Slovenia .....	3 Dec 2002 P
Mongolia.....	6 Apr 1999 P	South Africa.....	26 Jun 1998 P
Montenegro <sup>1</sup> .....	23 Oct 2006 d	Spain .....	19 Jan 1998 P
Morocco.....	19 Mar 2002 P	Sri Lanka.....	24 Sep 2004 P
Nauru .....	12 Nov 2001 P	St. Vincent and the Grenadines .....	6 Dec 2010 P
Netherlands (Kingdom of the) <sup>2</sup> .....	25 Mar 1999 P	Sweden.....	15 Jan 1997 P
New Zealand.....	8 Jan 1998 P	Switzerland .....	24 Mar 1998 P
Nicaragua.....	5 Dec 2000 P	Tajikistan .....	12 Oct 1999 P
Niger .....	18 Sep 2007 P	Tunisia .....	23 Mar 2006 P
North Macedonia .....	19 Mar 2007 P	Türkiye.....	2 Mar 2005 P
Norway .....	20 Apr 1998 P	Ukraine .....	28 May 2003 P
Pakistan.....	5 Dec 2000 P	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.....	11 Feb 1999 P
Panama.....	26 Mar 1997 P	United States of America.....	21 Jan 2009 P
Paraguay .....	3 Dec 2008 P	Uruguay .....	18 Sep 1998 P
Peru.....	3 Jul 1997 P	Uzbekistan .....	29 Sep 1997 P

***Declarations and Reservations***  
***(Unless otherwise indicated, the declarations and  
reservations were made upon consent to be bound or succession.)***

**AUSTRALIA**

"It is the understanding of the Government of Australia that the provisions of Protocol IV shall apply in all circumstances."

**AUSTRIA**

[Same declaration, *mutatis mutandis*, as the one made by Ireland.]

**BELGIUM**

It is the understanding of the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium that the provisions of Protocol IV which by their contents or nature may also be applied in peacetime, shall be observed at all times.

**CANADA<sup>3</sup>**

[Same declaration, *mutatis mutandis*, as the one made by Ireland.]

**GERMANY**

[Same declaration, *mutatis mutandis*, as the one made by Ireland.]

**GREECE**

[Same declaration, *mutatis mutandis*, as the one made by Ireland.]

#### **IRELAND**

"It is the understanding of Ireland that the provisions of the Additional Protocol which by their contents or nature may also be applied in peacetime, shall be observed at all times."

#### **ISRAEL**

"With reference to the scope of application defined in Article 1 of the Convention, the Government of the State of Israel will apply the provisions of the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons as well as the Convention and those annexed Protocols to which Israel has agreed to become bound, to all armed conflicts involving regular armed forces of States referred to in article 2 common to the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, as well as to all armed conflicts referred to in Article 3 common to the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949."

#### **ITALY**

[Same declaration, *mutatis mutandis*, as the one made by Ireland.]

#### **LIECHTENSTEIN**

[Same declaration, *mutatis mutandis*, as the one made by Ireland.]

#### **NETHERLANDS (KINGDOM OF THE)**

"The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands takes the view that the provisions of Protocol IV which, given their content or nature, can also be applied in peacetime must be observed in all circumstances."

#### **POLAND**

The Republic of Poland believes that the provisions of the Additional Protocol should also be applied during peacetime.

#### **SOUTH AFRICA**

[Same declaration, *mutatis mutandis*, as the one made by Ireland.]

#### **SWEDEN**

"--Sweden intends to apply the Protocol to all types of armed conflict;

- -Sweden intends to pursue an international agreement by which the provisions of the Protocol shall be applicable to all types of armed conflict;

-- Sweden has since long strived for explicit prohibition of the use of blinding laser which would risk causing permanent blindness to soldiers. Such an effect, in Sweden's view is contrary to the principle of international law prohibiting means and methods of warfare which cause unnecessary suffering."

#### **SWITZERLAND**

[Same declaration, *mutatis mutandis*, as the one made by Australia.]

#### **UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

"In relation to Protocol IV, the Government of the United Kingdom declare that their application of its provisions will not be limited to the situations set out in Article 1 of the [1980] Convention."

#### **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

"It is the understanding of the United States of America with respect to Article 2 that any decision by any military commander, military personnel, or any other person responsible for planning, authorizing or executing military action shall only be judged on the basis of that person's assessment of the information reasonably available to the person at the time the person planned, authorized or

executed the action under review, and shall not be judged on the basis of information that comes to light after the action under review was taken."

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#### **Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> See note 1 under "Montenegro" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

<sup>2</sup> For the Kingdom in Europe.

Subsequently, on 28 April 2014, the Government of The Netherlands informed the Secretary-General of the Territorial Application in respect of the Caribbean part of The Netherlands (Islands of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba).

<sup>3</sup> In keeping with the depositary practice followed in similar cases, the Secretary-General proposed to receive the declaration for deposit in the absence of any objection on the part of the Contracting States, either to the deposit itself or to the procedure envisaged, within a period of 90 days from the date of its circulation (i.e. 21 July 1998). None of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol having notified the Secretary-General of an objection within the 90 days period, the declaration was deemed to have been accepted for deposit upon the expiration of the 90 day period in question, i.e. on 19 October 1998.

