

PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK TO THE UNITED NATIONS
New York

Secretary-General of the United Nations
H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Executive Office of
The Secretary General
S-3800

One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza
885 Second Avenue, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10017
Phone: +1 (212) 308-7009
Fax: +1 (212) 308-3384
E-mail: nycmis@um.dk
<http://fnnewyork.um.dk>



Enclosure
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File
6.B.2.FNNYC

Department

30 May 2014

Enclosed please find from the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark the requested information on steps taken to implement the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions on behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark in reference to the letter of 5 March 2014 regarding "Status of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protections of victims in armed conflicts" (circular note LA/COD/2).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eva Pittl', is written over a horizontal line.

Eva Pittl

Personal Assistant to the Permanent Representative
of Denmark to the United Nations
evapit@um.dk / 212-705-4919

**PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Ref. No. 6.B.2.FNNYC

The Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and in reference to the letter of 5 March 2014 regarding "Status of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protections of victims in armed conflicts" (circular note LA/COD/2), has the honor to submit the following requested information on steps taken to implement the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions on behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark.

Denmark remains committed to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and its Additional Protocols and continues to pursue measures to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law.

Copenhagen Process

Recognizing the challenges that arise in handling detainees in international military operations in the context of non-international armed conflict situations and peace operations including in regard to the transfer of detainees Denmark initiated the Copenhagen Process on the Handling of Detainees in International Military Operations on 11 October 2007. The purpose was to develop principles to guide the implementation of the existing obligations with respect to detention in international military operations. The process was concluded on 19 October 2012 where representatives of 24 countries welcomed the Copenhagen Process Principles and Guidelines.

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By facilitating a common approach the Copenhagen Process strives to contribute to ensuring the humane treatment of detainees and the effectiveness of international military operations, and the Principles and Guidelines are founded on the legal principles that all persons who are detained or whose liberty is being restricted must be treated humanely, that any detention must be conducted in accordance with applicable law, and on the policy principle that legal authority to detain should be exercised in a prudent manner.

Representatives of the African Union, the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the United Nations, and the International Committee of the Red Cross attended the Copenhagen Process meetings as observers.

Military Manual

Denmark has initiated work on a military manual on the laws of armed conflicts applicable to Danish military forces participating in international operations. The purpose is to establish clear over-all guidelines on how international humanitarian law and human rights should be implemented in the planning and execution of military operations. Using the practical challenges that have occurred in previous international operations as a starting point, the manual will cover issues such as targeting, use of military force, protection of civilians, injured persons and detainees, and will provide guidelines on the applicability of human rights when Danish forces participate in international operations. As part of the process symposiums will be held with the participation of the Danish Red Cross, DIGNITY (Danish Institute against Torture) and The Danish Institute for Human Rights to qualify the work. The military manual is expected to be completed in 2016.

Disposal of national cluster munition

Denmark ratified the Convention on Cluster Munition in 2010 being among the 30 first states ratifying the convention. Denmark's deadline for destroying national stockpiles is not until 2018 but having decided to advance the destruction process, Denmark announced the disposal of the last Danish cluster bombs in March 2014. The Danish stockpile of cluster munition comprised of approximately 42,000 shells containing a total of approximately 2.5 million bomblets. The destruction of these munitions relied on extensive recycling which has helped minimize destruction costs.

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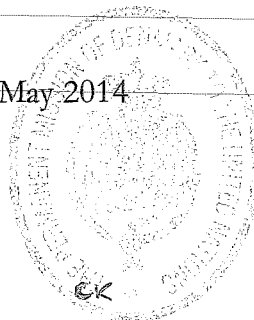
The total destruction costs amount to approximately EUR 2.3 million or less than EUR 1 per bomblet. The convention allows for the retention of a limited number of cluster munitions for training and development of clearance techniques. For this purpose the Danish Defense has retained approximately 3,600 bomblets in order to sustain the expertise to clear this type of ammunition in the future. Between 2013 and 2015 Denmark is providing international humanitarian organizations with approximately EUR 1.3 million to promote universalization and implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munition and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. Denmark contributed to the work of the United Nations Mine Action Service with EUR 4 million across 2013 and 2014.

Ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty

Denmark ratified the Arms Trade Treaty on 2 April 2014. During the negotiations Denmark emphasized the need for a universal, legally binding treaty setting a clear condition that human rights and international humanitarian law are respected in the trading of arms. Denmark has pledged 1.1 million US dollars during 2013-2016 to UNSCAR to support the preparation for ratification and future implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and at the same time to support implementation of the Programme of Action on small arms (PoA).

The Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 30 May 2014



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