

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: 108.

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	Czech Republic.....	10 Aug 1998 P
Albania.....	28 Aug 2002 P	Denmark	30 Apr 1997 P
Algeria	6 May 2015 P	Dominican Republic	21 Jun 2010 P
Antigua and Barbuda.....	23 Aug 2010 P	Ecuador.....	16 Dec 2003 P
Argentina	21 Oct 1998 P	El Salvador	26 Jan 2000 P
Australia.....	22 Aug 1997 P	Estonia	20 Apr 2000 P
Austria	27 Jul 1998 P	Finland.....	11 Jan 1996 P
Bahrain.....	11 Mar 2016 P	France	30 Jun 1998 P
Bangladesh.....	6 Sep 2000 P	Gabon.....	22 Sep 2010 P
Belarus.....	13 Sep 2000 P	Georgia	14 Jul 2006 P
Belgium	10 Mar 1999 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
Cyprus.....	22 Jul 2003 P	Kazakhstan.....	8 Jul 2009 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>
Kuwait	24 May 2013 P	Portugal.....	12 Nov 2001 P
Latvia.....	11 Mar 1998 P	Qatar	16 Nov 2009 P
Lesotho	25 Apr 2016 P	Republic of Moldova.....	8 Sep 2000 P
Liberia.....	16 Sep 2005 P	Romania.....	25 Aug 2003 P
Liechtenstein.....	19 Nov 1997 P	Russian Federation	9 Sep 1999 P
Lithuania.....	3 Jun 1998 P	Saudi Arabia	7 Dec 2007 P
Luxembourg.....	5 Aug 1999 P	Serbia.....	12 Aug 2003 P
Madagascar.....	14 Mar 2008 P	Seychelles.....	8 Jun 2000 P
Maldives	7 Sep 2000 P	Sierra Leone.....	30 Sep 2004 P
Mali.....	24 Oct 2001 P	Slovakia	30 Nov 1999 P
Malta.....	24 Sep 2004 P	Slovenia	3 Dec 2002 P
Mauritius.....	24 Dec 2002 P	South Africa.....	26 Jun 1998 P
Mexico.....	10 Mar 1998 P	Spain.....	19 Jan 1998 P
Mongolia.....	6 Apr 1999 P	Sri Lanka.....	24 Sep 2004 P
Montenegro ¹	23 Oct 2006 d	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	6 Dec 2010 P
Morocco.....	19 Mar 2002 P	Sweden.....	15 Jan 1997 P
Nauru	12 Nov 2001 P	Switzerland.....	24 Mar 1998 P
Netherlands ²	25 Mar 1999 P	Tajikistan	12 Oct 1999 P
New Zealand.....	8 Jan 1998 P	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.....	19 Mar 2007 P
Nicaragua.....	5 Dec 2000 P	Tunisia	23 Mar 2006 P
Niger.....	18 Sep 2007 P	Turkey.....	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
Philippines	12 Jun 1997 P		
Poland	23 Sep 2004 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.

CANADA³

[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

"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."

Notes:

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

² 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).

³ 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.

