

Reference: C.N.347.2024.TREATIES-XXVI.6 (Depositary Notification)

CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

DUBLIN, 30 MAY 2008

LITHUANIA: NOTIFICATION OF WITHDRAWAL ¹

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicates the following:

The above action was effected on 6 September 2024.

(Original: English)

“...the Republic of Lithuania has reconsidered its position with respect to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, including the reasons that:

- the Republic of Lithuania was one of the first countries to sign the Convention in Oslo on 3 December 2008, setting an example for the countries of the Baltic region. By signing the Convention, the Republic of Lithuania hoped that, following this example, all the other States in the region would also join the Convention;
- the Republic of Lithuania so far has fulfilled its obligations under the Convention in good faith, it has never produced, stockpiled, transferred, or used cluster munitions. It has actively participated throughout the Convention’s meetings and has repeatedly expressed concern about the use of cluster munitions by other countries, urging them to renounce the use of cluster munitions, to accede to the Convention and to abide by its obligations;
- the changes in the security situation of our region over time has demonstrated that these hopes have not been fulfilled. Even one country not only did not accede to the Convention, but it has also, in violation of the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, launched an unprovoked aggression against Ukraine, and widely use cluster munitions during this armed conflict;
- in light of evolving regional security dynamics and geopolitical threats, the Republic of Lithuania has reassessed its defence strategies and capabilities, determining that the current security environment necessitates maintaining a full spectrum of defensive tools, including cluster munitions, to ensure national security and protect our citizens, underscoring the importance of retaining a diverse arsenal to address potential aggressions effectively;

¹ Refer to depositary notification C.N.125.2011.TREATIES-6 of 24 March 2011 (Ratification: Lithuania).

- the Republic of Lithuania faces unique strategic defence challenges that demand flexibility and readiness to respond to various military scenarios, with cluster munitions playing a critical role in its defensive operations and deterrence strategies, and withdrawal from the Convention on Cluster Munitions will allow Lithuania to maintain these capabilities without restrictions, thereby enhancing its overall defence posture;
- significant advancements in the technology and precision of cluster munitions have reduced the risk of unexploded ordnance and civilian casualties, and the Republic of Lithuania is committed to adopting these advanced munitions, which include enhanced safety mechanisms and self-destruct features, thereby minimizing humanitarian concerns associated with their use, and by withdrawing from the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Lithuania can continue to invest in and deploy these improved technologies responsibly;
- while withdrawing from the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Republic of Lithuania remains deeply committed to minimizing the humanitarian impact of military operations by continuing to adhere to international humanitarian law, prioritizing the protection of civilian lives and property, and dedicating efforts to clear unexploded ordnance and support victims of armed conflict both domestically and internationally.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Gitanas Nausėda, President of the Republic of Lithuania, hereby formally declare that the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, having considered the Convention on Cluster Munitions, done at Dublin on 30 May 2008, decided to denounce the said Convention, and in accordance with the provisions outlined in Article 20 of the Convention, the Republic of Lithuania withdraws from the Convention.”

In accordance with paragraph 3 of article 20 of the Convention, the withdrawal would take effect for Lithuania on 6 March 2025, subject to the condition set forth in the said paragraph, which reads as follows:

“3. Such withdrawal shall only take effect six months after the receipt of the instrument of withdrawal by the Depositary. If, however, on the expiry of that six-month period, the withdrawing State Party is engaged in an armed conflict, the withdrawal shall not take effect before the end of the armed conflict.”

6 September 2024

