

**Africa As An Anti-Personnel Mine Free
Zone – Progress And Challenges:**
**OVERVIEW OF STOCKPILE
DESTRUCTION**

A PRESENTATION BY
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**APMBT: Stockpile Destruction of Anti-
Personnel Mines**

• **WHAT DOES ARTICLE 4 SAY?**

“Except as provided for in Article 3, each State Party undertakes to destroy or ensure the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines it owns or possesses, or that are under its jurisdiction or control, as soon as possible but not later than four years after the entry into force of this convention for that State Party.”

EXCEPTIONS

- The retention or transfer of a number of anti-personnel mines ***for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques*** is permitted
- The number of such mines shall not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for the permitted purposes.

SIGNIFICANCE OF ARTICLE 4

- Cornerstone Article of APMBT in ensuring that a class of weapons is eliminated
- Destruction of APMs ensures that no mines will be laid again = zero victims

AFRICAN COMPLIANCE STATUS

- African States Parties are all article 4 compliant
- Most recent African SP to comply was Ethiopia in May 2009 ahead of its 1 June 2009 deadline
- 152 States Parties do not hold stockpiles and have completed destruction of over 42 million stockpiled APMs collectively.
- 3 SPs still non-compliant; 1 likely to miss 2010 deadline

CONCERNS AND CHALLENGES

CONCERNS

- 4 States still in process of destroying stockpiles
- Retained mines as permitted in Article 3 exception may be viewed as stockpiling when SPs do not use them as intended
- No need for live mines in training

CHALLENGES

- Technical and Financial
e.g. PFM-1 mines

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!!

