

## The status of the implementation of Article 4

### Statement by the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction (Italy and Zambia)

1 December 2009

During the course of this week, we will hear a lot of numbers mentioned.

Let me **mention** one of the **largest** numbers we'll hear: 42,369,334 (forty-two-million-three-hundred-sixty-nine-thousand-three-hundred-thirty-four).

As noted in Annex III to the Review document, this is the number of stockpiled **mines** that the States Parties have reported destroyed.

Because we have lived up to our commitment to destroy more than 42.3 million mines, potentially millions of innocent women, men, girls and boys who will not ~~lose a life or limb~~ **be harmed**.

And because our Convention aims to be conclusive in ending, for all time, the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines, our efforts to destroy stocks represent potentially ~~billions~~ **hundreds of thousands** of square ~~metres~~ **miles** of productive land that will **no longer** ~~not~~ be held in deadly bondage.

Clearly, the destruction of stockpiled mines remains one of this Convention's success stories, with much progress having been made since the 2004 Nairobi Summit.

Since Nairobi, approximately 4.4 million stockpiled mines have been destroyed.

Whereas in Nairobi the obligation to destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines remained relevant for 16 States Parties, now only 4 States Parties must finish this task.

Whereas in Nairobi 8 States Parties had not yet provided an initial transparency report to confirm the status of stocks held, now only two ~~2 States Parties~~ have not yet complied with their initial transparency reporting obligations.

However, major challenges remain that must urgently be addressed.

Of the 4 States Parties with obligations under Article 4 – Belarus, Greece, Turkey and Ukraine – ~~three~~ of these States Parties have been non-compliant with respect to their stockpile destruction obligations since 1 March 2008.

In addition, Ukraine has indicated that it will be unable to comply with its obligation to destroy its stockpiled anti-personnel mines by its deadline. While these States Parties have taken steps to provide a high level of clarity on efforts to move towards destruction of their stockpiles, States Parties have called upon these States to rectify the situation as soon as possible and to continue to be transparent about progress until they have completed destruction.

With respect to these four cases, there are really two types of challenges to overcome.

In the cases of Belarus and Ukraine, the technical challenge of destruction of PFM-type anti-personnel mines has been noted. In this regard, **the EU has taken action in the context of the agreement made at the Nairobi Summit that "States Parties in a position to do so will act upon their obligations under Article 6, paragraph 5 to promptly assist State Parties with clearly demonstrated needs for external support."** ~~This implies that the matter of ensuing compliance on the part of Belarus and Ukraine is the business of all State Parties.~~

The States Parties have welcomed the role played by the European Commission in offering assistance but have equally remarked that arriving at a fruitful conclusion on matters concerning cooperation and assistance remains a challenge. ~~In this context, the State Parties have recalled that Article 6, paragraph 8 states "each State Party giving and receiving assistance under the provisions of this Article shall cooperate with a view to ensuring the full and prompt implementation of agreed assistance programmes."~~

**The year 2009 has in fact been very important as we have overcome the stalemate in the complicated situation of Belarus and Ukraine.**

**After a number of high level contacts, Ukraine has sent to the European Commission a request to include assistance to destroy landmines in the framework of the European neighborhood Partnership Instrument National Programme for 2011-2013.**

**Therefore, we understand that the Commission will programme spending accordingly which means that Ukraine will be able to buy a second rotary kiln, necessary to destroy its PFM landmines in reasonable time.**

**Belarus, last June, agreed on new terms of reference and on an Arrangement in the form of an Exchange of Letters with the European Commission. The two documents were signed in September and the tender for new mine-destruction equipment has been launched successfully. A company to carry out the work will be selected in January 2010.**

~~Over the past two years These results have been encouraged, during this year, also by the activity of the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction that have facilitated dialogue between Belarus and Ukraine, respectively, and the European Commission, and encouraged the prompt conclusion of assistance programmes. Our hope is that at this Review Conference we will receive updated information that will give us optimism that the destruction of stockpiled PFM-type mines will now proceed.~~

With respect to non-compliance by Greece and Turkey, the lesson we have learned is the need to promptly proceed with one's stockpile destruction programme and to send signals to the State Parties early regarding progress made, or lack thereof.

We commend Greece and Turkey for proceeding with national stockpile destruction programmes using their own resources. ~~However,~~ While it remains a concern that neither has yet completed its programme, we note with satisfaction **that stockpile destruction efforts by Greece and Turkey. Our understanding is that they are now well underway. However, we would prefer to have the two national delegations take the floor on this topic so as to give us the most recent situation.**

I hope that each is able to inform this Review Conference regarding when it intends to have fulfilled its Article 4 obligations.

The concern about compliance with Article 4 have led to the States Parties taking prudent actions at the 9MSP to give due attention to cases of non-compliance and to prevent future instances of non compliance.

We are grateful that these recommendations have been reiterated in the documents of this Second Review Conference.

We are also grateful that the actions on stockpile destruction contained in the Cartagena Action Plan provide us with the guidance necessary to ensure that the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines continues to be one of this Convention's success stories.

Madame President: Allow me to close by expressing our pleasure in having been afforded the opportunity to exercise leadership since the 9MSP in the pursuit of the aim of destroying all stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

We salute those who have done the same since the Nairobi Summit, including Lithuania, Serbia, Algeria, Estonia, Japan, Tanzania, Canada and Bangladesh.

Finally, we wish our successors, Bulgaria and Indonesia, the best as they continue leading this important work.