

APMBC Intersessionals 2015 – 26.06.2015

SWITZERLAND

Statement on Stockpile Destruction / Art. 4 implementation (Check against delivery!)

Mister President

We thank the Presidency, the Coordinators as well as Afghanistan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Finland, Greece, Poland and Ukraine for the very valuable information and presentations provided today and in the document made available on 22 June 2016 on the issue of stockpile destruction. In our view, the information on the quantity of anti-personnel mines destroyed and to be destroyed as contained in the document is certainly useful and helps us to get a clearer picture on the status of the implementation of article 4. We are encouraged in particular to hear that Poland and Finland expect the destruction of their stocks to be completed well within the four year deadline.

Switzerland is concerned that 3 States Parties have missed their deadlines for the completion of their article 4 obligations and that these cases remain outstanding. We are concerned because non-compliance with a core article of the treaty could put the credibility of the Convention at risk. We note with appreciation the efforts that have been undertaken by some of the States concerned, in order to implement action 5 of the Maputo action plan. We would like to encourage any party that has missed the deadline set by this action to fulfil its provisions as rapidly as possible.

Actions 5 to 7 of the Maputo Action Plan provide us with helpful guidance and put a particular emphasis on the regular information to the President and the States Parties of the APMBC. In this context, we would like to encourage Belarus, Greece and Ukraine to remain committed to finalizing the destructions of their stockpiles and to provide transparent information on the basis of article 7 National Reports.

Thank you very much.