

Remarks
by the Ukrainian delegation on the destruction of APLs stockpiles (Article 4)

Distinguished Co-Chairs,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As of today Ukraine managed to dispose in total *1,219,005* mines (among those *568,184* PFM-1 mines).

For the period of year 2013 *332,352* PFM-1 mines were disposed (mostly due to the financial support of Germany).

5,434,676 PFM-1 (1S) mines are liable to destruction under the Article 4 of the Ottawa Treaty and the possible deadlines are still to be defined.

All legislative measures to enable efficient mechanisms for a continued stockpile destruction process were introduced and the coordination measures were implemented by Ukraine, including those necessary for the transfer of funds reserved by the European Commission for these purposes in the framework of the Second phase of NATO/PfP Trust Fund project in Ukraine.

Moreover thanks to financial assistance from Norway and the USA, the necessary equipment was purchased and installed at Pavlograd Chemical Plant where the destruction is taking place. The modernized facilities were officially put into operation.

However, due to the insufficient international financial support, the destruction process is slow. Once an appropriate funding is provided, the Pavlograd Chemical Plant will be able to destroy more than 1 million of PFM-1 mines per year.

In this regard Ukraine is engaged in an active dialogue with the European Commission as well as other donors on their participation in the projects of anti-personnel mines destruction.

As the domestic funds do not allow performing the destruction tasks at a needed pace, our work is focused only on the disposal of unconditional munitions, which further storage could be unsafe. During the first quarter of 2014 Ukrainian military engineers destroyed by detonation *8* KSF-1 clusters, making a total of *572* anti-personnel mines.

Further information concerning these issues will be provided by the delegation of Ukraine at the Third Review Conference of the States Parties to the Ottawa Treaty in June this year.

In conclusion I would like to echo what was said on Wednesday by my distinguished colleague from the delegation of Belarus, as we also consider it inappropriate for the ICBL to politicize the above mentioned issue.

It was numerously reported by the delegation of Ukraine at the meetings of the Ottawa Treaty and during the informal consultations with representatives of the

mentioned NGO that there are quite objective reasons preventing the implementation of Article 4 of the Treaty - and this is not Ukraine's reluctance to be adherent to its international obligations, but the excessive quantities of existing APLs stocks as well as the lack of appropriate international funding for the destruction of antipersonnel mines.

We would like to remind the participants that the main condition for the ratification of the Ottawa Treaty by our country was an agreement, reached between the Government of Ukraine and the European Commission on the financing of the project of destruction of more than six million of APLs. Since 2005, Ukraine has been waiting for the EU to comply with its obligations. And the next year it will be just right time to celebrate the 10th anniversary.

In this regard, we once again kindly recommend the ICBL to address all its questions to the EU representatives.

At the same time, we wish to express our deep appreciation to the states-contributors of the NATO PfP Trust Fund Project in Ukraine for the financial assistance, which to the large extent allowed the gradual destruction of APLS in recent years and the avoidance of standstill of the Pavlograd Chemical Plant.

I thank you.