



**Statement of the delegation of Ukraine
at the meeting of the AP Mine Ban Convention Standing Committee
on Stockpile Destruction**

On Implementation Developments of Ottawa Convention in Ukraine, Article 4
(21-25 May 2012, Geneva)

*Dear Chairman, Co-Chairs,
Your Excellencies,*

The Ukrainian delegation avails itself of this opportunity to thank the organizers and welcome the State Parties to the Ottawa Convention participating in the Standing Committees in Geneva.

Ukraine reaffirms its commitments to the State Parties, the States that are not parties, international and non-governmental organisations concerned to promote continuity, openness, transparency and cooperative spirit in its mine action efforts.

I. As of today Ukraine has destroyed the total of 875, 380 different types of its antipersonal mines. Last year the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine eliminated 9,720 APLs while 6,720 APLs (PFM-1/PFM-1S) have been destroyed by our military engineers since the beginning of this year. Despite the planned international assistance all of these works were performed using domestic funds.

Moreover the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine is planning in the next two months to finance the destruction 4,000 APLs of OZM-4 type.

This February the Ukrainian Defence Ministry initiated government decree N57-p to include again in the Ammunition List all of the APLs, which are to be demilitarized during 2012-2016.

II. Ukraine strives to keep up the destruction process; however the situation does not allow eliminating a large number of stockpiles. It is estimated that over 5 million APLs need to be destroyed.

The new plan to implement Article 4 as soon as possible was initiated together with our international partners two years ago. Today we are pleased to announce that we have succeeded, however the deadlines are still to be defined.

Since that time Ukraine has introduced relevant legislative measures to enable efficient mechanisms for a continued stockpile destruction process. In order to comply with EU safety and environmental standards we have taken a number of structural and technical improvements including the Norwegian funds totalling \$ 1 mln. to modernize the incinerator facility at the Pavlograd Chemical Plant. The final tests at this site before it reached full operational capability were made on August 26, 2011. During the start-up ceremony the first 72 PFM-1 mines were safely destroyed at the updated Pavlograd`s incinerator.

It was calculated that when the appropriate funding is provided the Pavlograd Chemical Plant will be able to destroy more than 1 million of PFM-1 mines a year.

III. In order to increase the pace of demilitarization it was agreed to include the destruction of the APLs in the Second phase of NATO/PfP Trust Fund project in Ukraine, which covers the destruction of artillery ammunition and small and light weapons. All necessary legislative procedures were completed in February this year to endorse the Implementation agreement with the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) in order to supervise the process and costs.

We appreciate that the European Commission reserved funds for the destruction of all APLs stockpiles in Ukraine, as well as for the elimination of 3 million of APLs in particular, which are listed in the Implementation agreement. The destruction costs for the Second phase are shared and will include the EU international contribution of 60% and the Ukrainian contribution at 40%.

However Ukraine was recently informed by our EU and NAMSA partners that additional coordination measures should be implemented before the actual funds are transferred to Pavlograd.

Therefore Ukraine calls upon all Parties in this process to try and improve the situation in order to find an appropriate solution. We consider the Agreement with NAMSA to be a highly efficient mechanism for allocating EU funds to start safe full-scale APLs destruction activities in Ukraine.

Thank you.