

ICRC intervention

Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction 22 May 2012

Re: Updates from relevant states parties on the status of implementation of Article 4

The ICRC would like to thank **Belarus, Greece and the Ukraine** for the updates they have provided today. It is unfortunate that these three States have not yet been able to ensure compliance with their Article 4 obligations. While it is very good to see that there have been some positive developments, we urge all three States to maintain the commitments they made in Cartagena in Action Points 7 and 10 of the Cartagena Action Plan to "comply, without delay, with Article 4" and to "take all necessary steps to comply with Article 4 as soon as possible."

The ICRC is pleased to have heard today from **Belarus** that after some delays, stockpile destruction will commence shortly and that it will still complete the full destruction of its stockpiled mines in 2013. We urge Belarus and its EC partners to maintain their commitment to meeting this goal, and look forward to future updates.

The ICRC would like to thank **Greece** for the efforts it is undertaking to find a solution to the stalemate regarding the destruction of its 950,000 stockpiled mines. We understand that due to the legal proceedings with the company previously contracted to undertake this destruction, Greece is unable at this time to implement other initiatives. However, we would urge Greece to already put in place plans to ensure swift action on its stockpile destruction once that matter is resolved. In particular, we encourage Greece to share as much information as possible with the States Parties regarding its future plans, including the proposed timeframe for destruction of the remaining stockpiles, whichever avenue is pursued.

Finally, we have noted the positive developments with regard to the **Ukraine**, which has entered into an agreement with NAMSA for the destruction of 3 million PFM1 mines. It was not, however, clear to us what plans the Ukraine has for the destruction of its remaining anti-personnel mines, including another 2.7 million PFM1 mines. It would be useful to know if the Ukraine is still on track to meet its goal, announced at last year's intersessional meetings, to complete its stockpile destruction in 2014.