THE PROCESS OF ACTION IN IMPLEMENTING THE OTTAWA CONVENTION (Article 4)

Ottawa Convention, Intercessional Meeting, Standing Committee, Geneva, 23 April 2007

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

I feel much honored to be here today, among such a distinguished audience, linked to the common objective of building a safer world by eradicating anti-personnel mines.

Since our last briefing in September 2006, on article 4, at the Standing Committee, the Republic of Cyprus has proceeded in the same year to the destruction of 18.000 stored AP mines.

According to the time schedule of the National Plan, the destruction of another 15.548 stockpiled AP mines is foreseen for the year 2007. The work progress is monitored and regulated until the aforementioned objectives are successfully achieved.

For the fulfillment of all obligations of the Republic of Cyprus, in accordance with article 4 of the Ottawa Convention, the destruction of the last remaining 6.000 stockpiled AP mines, out of 50.000, will be implemented within the deadline of 1st of July 2007, including Cyprus in one of the countries with not any stocks on AP mines.

Finally we would like to encourage all member states to keep on their efforts, in succeeding their own goal.

Mr. Chairman
Thank you for your attention