

STATEMENT
by Mrs. Olena Syrota
Arms Control and Military Technical Cooperation Directorate,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of UKRAINE,
at the Meetings of the Standing Committees
established by the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibition of the Use,
Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their
Destruction

Geneva, 23 April, 2007

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Distinguished Delegates,

First of all I would like on behalf of the Delegation of Ukraine to congratulate the Co-Chairs on their assumption of this important and responsible post and wish you all the best in chairing over this Meeting. Let me also to thank the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining for its support in the implementation of the Ottawa Convention and in the preparations of these Meetings.

As the State Party to the Ottawa Convention, Ukraine is fully committed to comprehensive compliance with this instrument, and, in particular, intends to spare no effort in order to ensure complete destruction of its stockpiled mines, the enormous quantity of which my country inherited from the Soviet era.

I would like to structure my intervention on the basis of the Questionnaire that has been prepared by the Distinguished Co-Chairs of our Meeting.

1. In accordance with the relevant Regulation approved by the Government of Ukraine, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine is obliged annually to carry out an inventory of all munition, including antipersonnel mines' stockpiles. This inventory includes verification of the type, quantity, lot numbers, years of production of the possessed ammunition. The recent inventory was held during October-December, 2006 and its results were reported to the Central Engineering Service of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

2. In December, 2006 the Government of Ukraine adopted a Decision, by which the Commission on Coordination of Destruction of the Missiles, Ammunition and Explosives in Ukraine was established. The First Vice-Prime-Minister was appointed as a Head of this body, Minister of Emergency Situations, Minister of Industrial Policy, Deputy Ministers of Defense and for Foreign Affairs were appointed as its members. Since its creation, the Commission held 2 meetings, and the destruction of antipersonnel mines was one of the core issues on their agenda.

3. The State Program on Conventional Arms and Ammunition Destruction was approved by the Government of Ukraine as long ago as in 1995. In pursuance of the further Decision of the President of Ukraine, in 1999 the separate Program on Destruction of Antipersonnel Mines in Ukraine was worked out additionally by the Ministry of Defense and approved at the interagency level. Furthermore, the mines' elimination is regulated by the numerous governmental decisions which have been taken later, mainly with a view to ensure proper implementation of the mentioned Program.

I would like to point out that in September 2006 the Government of Ukraine adopted the Concept of the State Program on Ammunition Destruction for the period of 2006-2017. It envisages that all the stockpiles of antipersonnel mines in Ukraine will be destroyed until June 2010 and in accordance with Article 4 of the Ottawa Convention.

Let me recall to some statistic figures which demonstrate the achievements already made with regard to the mines destruction in Ukraine.

During 10-years period, since the Ottawa Convention was opened for signature and accession, the following quantity of prohibited mines was destroyed:

- 101 088 items of PFM-1;
- 399 200 items of PMN;
- 238 093 items of POMZ;
- 8 060 items of PMD-2.

In this regard I would like to use this opportunity to thank once again to all the countries, first of all to Canada, as well as the international organizations, in particular the NATO and the European Commission, which once showed readiness to share our burden and thus supported Ukraine's efforts towards ratification of the Ottawa Convention.

As of today, 6 304 907 items of 5 different types of antipersonnel mines in Ukraine require destruction, and the most difficulties in this sphere are still related to the PFM elimination. Nonetheless, Ukraine is open for cooperation with the international community in order to resolve this problem.

By concluding my short intervention I would like to inform the distinguished delegates that on 1 December 2006 Ukraine officially distributed its first National Report in accordance with item 1, Article 7 of the Ottawa Convention. Besides, we prepared and already officially sent to both New York and Geneva our second National Report in accordance with item 2, Article 7 of the Ottawa Convention, which covers period from 1 December 2006 to 11 April 2007.

I thank you.