



Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer
of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

STANDING COMMITTEE ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION

Post Stockpile Destruction Measures

"Food for Thought" Paper prepared by the Co-Chairs of the Stockpile Destruction
Committee

In general terms, Post Stockpile Destruction Measures comprise all stockpile destruction related activities and information which remain relevant in the context of the Convention after the fulfillment of the obligations under Article IV. These measures are basically voluntary. They should promote confidence, promote transparency, improve the exchange of information and facilitate international cooperation and assistance. The following list of possible post stockpile destruction measures is neither exhaustive nor complete. Its main purpose is to provide "food for thought" for future discussion. The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction would welcome comments and reactions from the participants in the intersessional meetings. They would appreciate receiving such comments in writing by the beginning of April so that they can be taken into account for the discussion of post stockpile destruction measures at the next meeting in May.

Preservation and safeguarding of information and data and lessons learned related to national stockpile destruction programmes.

Since the negotiations of the Convention over 50 States Parties have destroyed over 28.5 million stockpiled antipersonnel mines. These States Parties gained valuable experiences and lessons with the planning, preparation, technology and management of national stockpile destruction programmes. Not only with respect to historical and factual purposes, but also for future cooperation and assistance in the area of stockpile destruction, these experiences and lessons represent together a valuable source of information, knowledge, data and lessons learned. It is therefore proposed that States Parties preserve this information and submit relevant documents and reports to the Implementation Support Unit of the Geneva Center for Humanitarian Demining in Geneva (GICHD). At the request of and with the agreement of the State Party that provided this information, these documents and reports should be made available to States Parties, governmental organisations and non-governmental organisations. It is further suggested that summary reports of national stockpile programmes be made available on the e-mine web-site of UNMAS.

Transfer of stockpile destruction technologies, equipment and installations in the context of assistance and cooperation for future States Parties

Since the entry into force of the Convention, States Parties have made considerable investments in stockpile destruction technologies, equipment and installations. They have developed specific technologies for minimizing the environmental impact of stockpile destruction activities and for recycling of valuable parts and materials of destroyed anti-personnel mines. Some countries have indicated that they would be prepared to make their

destruction technologies, equipment and installations available to future States Parties. In order to facilitate such a transfer of destruction technologies, equipment and installations, it is suggested that States Parties make an effort to preserve valuable national destruction capabilities and inform the Stockpile Destruction Standing Committee about their willingness to share them with other States Parties.

Declaration and destruction of stockpiled antipersonnel mines that are discovered after the completion of the destruction of national stockpiles.

It cannot be excluded that States Parties might find formerly unknown stockpiles of antipersonnel mines. Preferably the discovery of formerly unknown stockpiles should be immediately brought to the attention of the other States Parties and these mines should be destroyed. Another possibility might be to transfer them to the stockpile of retained mines for training and research purposes. However, the modalities for such transfers are far from clear with respect to the declaration and reporting requirements. So far there is no agreed procedure of how States Parties report newly discovered stockpiles of antipersonnel mines and, above all, provide additional factual information on the origin, types and condition of these mines. Preferably there should also be additional information which might explain why these mines were not included in the original national stockpile. Concerning the destruction of newly discovered mines, there seems to be a need for more detailed information regarding the destruction deadline, method and technology of destruction.

Reporting of national stockpiles and of mines retained for training and research purposes.

The declaration forms developed for reporting national stockpiles of antipersonnel mines do not specify whether the mines retained under Article III are considered to belong of the initial national stockpile of antipersonnel mines. While some States Parties have included mines retained under Article III in their declaration of their national stockpiles, other States Parties have not included. This difference in reporting make it difficult to compare national reports and to ascertain whether the declared stockpiles have been destroyed. It is therefore suggested to provide clear guidelines of how the antipersonnel mines retained under Article III should be declared (i.e. should mines retained be reported on both Form B and D or only in Form D?) and accounted for in the annual reports.