

**Intervention by Mr. Volodymyr DZIUB
Head of Multilateral Arms Control Division,
Directorate of Arms Control and Military & Technical Cooperation,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine**

Dear colleagues!

Today it was mentioned several times that some states non-parties to the Ottawa Convention have accumulated huge, enormous quantities of APLs in stockpiles. You may easily ascertain themselves that it is true by consulting Landmine Monitor or other sources. I even dare to say that amount of stockpiles predetermines somehow and reflects relative readiness of the state to become a party to this Treaty. So from Ukraine's perspective, as a state possessing considerable amount of APL stockpiles (6,35 mln. items), the solution of this issue is a critical one to ensure the universality of the Convention. Surely, the APLs in stockpiles will not necessarily be used, but to exclude this possibility completely, proper attention and consideration should be given to the issue of APL stockpile destruction by state-parties and signatories to the Convention, as well as to promoting the decrease of the APL inventories of the states remaining outside the Convention. The more so that the costs needed to destroy one mine are incomparably small with those needed for clearance one mine from the soil without saying about costs needed for medical treatment and social rehabilitation of one victim of the mine explosion. Destruction of stockpiles may be carried out in the relatively short time and this means saving financial resources for demining and victim assistance in the future period of time.

As far as Ukraine is concerned, last was marked by several important steps to establish legal framework of its cooperation with international community in the destruction of these stockpiles. First of all

Framework Arrangement between the Government of Canada and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the Destruction of Anti-Personnel Landmines in Ukraine was signed on 26 March 2001. I avail this opportunity to express our appreciation for the understanding, patience and perseverance displayed by Canadian side, namely distinguished Ambassador D. Livermore and his team during relevant consultations and negotiations with their Ukrainian partners.

Since that time on 6 December 2001 the Memorandum of Understanding between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the NATO Maintenance and Supply Organization on Logistics Support Co-Operation as well as Implementing Arrangement for the Destruction of Anti-Personnel Landmines between Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and NAMSO were signed. Implementing Arrangement is aimed at the destruction of 400 000 APLs of PMN-type.

Ukraine looks forward to start practical realization of the concluded agreements and elaboration of the projects of elimination of other types of APLs, especially PFM family of mines, destruction of which requires the usage of special technologies.