



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

STANDING COMMITTEE ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION

Co-Chairs' suggestions on ways to prepare for the 24 June Standing Committee meeting

Introduction

At least 120 States Parties now no longer have anti-personnel mine stockpiles and together the States Parties have destroyed almost 31.5 million mines. However, 21 States Parties are in the process of destroying their stockpiled anti-personnel mines and some of the newest States Parties may need assistance in destroying large stockpiles. In addition, some States Parties have not yet provided an Article 7 transparency report to confirm that no stockpiles are in their possession. As stated in the President's Action Programme, it is in the interest of the health of the Convention that we place a high priority on meeting our deadlines for stockpile destruction. During the June meeting, the Co-Chairs hope the many States Parties and others will share information on this matter.

Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of implementation

While all States Parties with stockpile destruction deadlines have fulfilled their Article 4 obligations, efforts are needed to uphold the flawless compliance record. Ongoing compliance will strengthen the Convention further and provide an important input to the Review Conference. With this in mind, the Co-Chairs will provide an open forum for States Parties which are in the process of destroying mines to provide updates, as well as those which have recently completed destruction programmes.

Suggestions on ways to prepare:

- *States Parties which are in the process of destroying mines and those which have recently completed destruction programmes may wish to prepare presentations on their destruction programmes, advances made, and challenges and needs that remain.*
- *Presentations, which can be delivered orally with or without the aide of audio-visual methods, should not exceed 8-10 minutes. Please contact the Co-Chairs or the Implementation Support Unit (isu@gichd.ch) if you intend on making a presentation.*

Updates regarding assistance and cooperation

In 2002-2003, the Co-Chairs recommended that States Parties and international and regional organizations continue to provide assistance in the area of stockpile destruction. In this regard, the 2003-2004 Co-Chairs at the February meeting encouraged States Parties and relevant organizations to think creatively about the range of cooperation opportunities that may exist. To initiate discussion, a "food for thought" paper was distributed by the Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs. (See document #9.)

Suggestions on ways to prepare:

- *States Parties and others may wish to review the "food for thought" paper and share their views in response to this paper and / or prepare updates for the Standing Committee on steps taken to provide assistance for stockpile destruction.*

Matters of a thematic nature related to stockpile destruction

In 2002-2003, the Co-Chairs raised the issue of a possible discovery of formerly unknown stockpiles. Although the importance of this issue was acknowledged, discussions on this matter were inconclusive. In June the Co-Chairs would appreciate any views on best practices in destroying stockpiled mines discovered after the end of destruction deadlines.