

*Statement by  
Ms. Nicole Hew A Kee  
Official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the  
Republic of Suriname*



*To the Meeting of the Committee  
On  
Stockpile Destruction*

*24 June, 2004*

*Meetings of the Standing Committees  
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Geneva*

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***Ms.Nicole Hew-A-Kee***  
***Official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the***  
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***to the***  
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Mr Chairman,

We thank the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining for the invitation to participate in the Second Session of the Meetings of the Standing Committees.

Mr.Chairman,

Suriname ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-Personnel Mines and on their destruction, better known as the Ottawa Convention, on the 23 th of May 2002.

As a State-Party to the Ottawa Convention, Suriname installed an inter-departmental Commission on Anti-Personnel Mines to implement the Convention.

This Commission operates at national level as well as international and has different tasks. It is responsible for the drafting of national legislation and the marking of the mined area at Stolkertsijver. The Commission on Anti-Personnel Mines also prepares national documents with regard to the provisions of the Ottawa Convention such as national reports and made the arrangements for the stockpile destruction.

Mr. Chairman,

Today I will focus on the destruction of the Anti-Personnel Mines in Suriname.

With the ratification of the Mine Ban Treaty in 2002, Suriname is obligated to fulfill the requirements in the articles of this Mine Ban Treaty.

Under article 4 of the treaty the destruction of stockpiled Anti-Personnel Mines should take place not later than four years after a State becomes party to the abovementioned treaty.

Suriname had 296 stockpiled Anti-Personnel Mines. On february 25 th, 146 Anti-Personnel Mines were destroyed by detonation. The National Army of Suriname was responsible for this destruction.

In accordance with article 3 of the Mine Ban Treaty, State-Parties may possess Stockpiled Anti-Personnel Mines for training in mine detection, mine clearance and mine destruction techniques.

In conformity with this article, Suriname will keep a stockpile of 150 Anti-Personnel mines, which will be used for the abovementioned purposes.

Mr.Chairman,

It is the duty of every State-Party to fully implement the Ottawa Convention. Suriname, therefore does its utmost in this regard and will in the near future, in collaboration with the OAS, make arrangements for the mine clearence at Stolkertsijver, 50 km from the capital Paramaribo.

Mr.Chairman,

Suriname believes in the univerzalisation of the Ottawa Convention and seeks to reach a Mine Free World, where people can live safely and securely.

As part of the international community, Suriname remains to cooperate with international organizations such as the United Nations, the NGO's such as the Red Kross and the International Campaign to ban Landmines and the State-Parties of the Ottawa Convention in order to reach the final goal of the Ottawa Convention which is the world wide banning of Anti-Personnel Mines.

Thank You, Mr Chairman.