

STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
CYPRUS FOR THE PROCESS OF ACTION IN IMPLEMENTING THE
OTTAWA CONVENTION (Article 5)

Ottawa Convention, Meeting of the Standing Committees Geneva, 02-06
June 2008

Mr. Co-Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

We feel much honored, to participate once more, amongst all of you, to the Meeting of the Standing Committees, linked to the common objective task, of building a safer world by eradicating antipersonnel mines.

Since our last briefing in November 2007, at the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties (8MSP), in Jordan, the Republic of Cyprus according to the provisions of Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention proceeded with steady steps in fulfilling its obligations, following strictly the Country's National Plan.

The progress which was made, refers to the destruction of an amount of (392) AP mines, which were removed from 2 more minefields of the National Guard.

The work that remains, according always to the time schedule, provided in the Country's National Plan, consists of the destruction of 3.224 AP mines laid in 10 more minefields, in areas under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus, which must be implemented by the 1st of July 2013.

The progress of the destruction of APMs in mined areas, is not impeded by any circumstances, because the work progress is monitored and regulated until the aforementioned objective is successfully achieved.

Our demining teams are supported technically and financially, and new technical means will be acquired if needed. The same demining methodology is used since the beginning and proves to be doing well.

At this point we would like to state, that since 2004, two foreign contractors (UK), selected by the UN, funded by the EU and implemented by UNDP, under the demining project, called PFF, are conducting demining and area clearance in the Buffer Zone, removing ¹⁴ minefields, laid by the Turkish ~~Forces~~ Forces since 1974.

No external assistance is needed, in demining and destroying all APMs, laid in minefields under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus and we assure you that we will meet our deadline, in fulfilling our obligations, as we have already done with the stockpile destruction.

In concluding, Mr. President, being fully aware of the human suffering caused by the mine problem all over the world; we expect the full implementation of the Ottawa Convention to the whole island of Cyprus,

Thank you for your kind attention.

05 June 2008