

## Statement by the delegation of Belarus

Madam President,

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all I would like to thank our Co-chairs as well as the Implementation Support Unit for providing me an opportunity to attend this meeting in order to inform States Parties about status of implementation of the Mine Ban Convention in Belarus.

The destruction of APMs of PFM-1 type is considered as a unique problem within the Ottawa Convention. The Republic of Belarus had no possibilities to accomplish the destruction of the stockpiled PFM mines without the assistance of the international community. Such an understanding was reflected in many documents, adopted by the meetings of the States Parties to the Ottawa Treaty, including those, adopted by the Second Review Conference held last year in Columbia.

Republic of Belarus and the European Commission continue their cooperation in the framework of the project entitled "Destruction of PFM-1 series ammunition in Belarus".

Unfortunately, 8-10 December 2009 the EC' Evaluation Committee was not able to select appropriate company as a contractor for implementation of the project. To that end the tender has been canceled because of the lack of compliant offer.

At the same time the European Commission has started the negotiation procedure with the most alleageable and technically compliant bidder as a potential contractor. The European Commission was prepared to go at great lengths to sign the contract. The mentioned negotiations were held from last December to May of 2010.

21.05.2010 the European Commission officially informed Belarusian side that the negotiated procedure was not successful.

At the same time the EC reconfirmed its willingness to support bilateral project. The European Commission suggested that the Arrangement in the form of Exchange of Letters between the European Commission and Terms of

Reference between the Government of Belarus and the European Commission of 3 September 2009 provides an appropriate framework for a stockpile destruction project.

The EC also expressed its willingness to re-launch the tender in very near future.

27 May 2010 MFA of Belarus notified the EU delegation in Minsk that all mentioned proposals of the European Commission were acceptable for the Belarusian side.

According to our information the EC is going to announce a new tender very soon. We were also informed that the European Commission studies various possibilities to make the tender conditions less restrictive, which might increase the likelihood of a positive outcome.

The Belarusian side expresses its gratitude to the EC for its tremendous efforts to assist Belarus in destroying its PFM's stockpiles. We respect a policy and procedures applied by the EC during the realization of projects on rendering the technical and financial assistance to other countries. I would like to indicate that the Belarusian authorities have excellent level of cooperation with our partners from the European Commission in the framework of the project.

Belarus is ready to put a maximum of efforts for successful completion of the joint project which realization will allow us to carry out of our obligations under the Ottawa convention.

Let me also inform you that the last year the Belarusian private company «Stroyenergo» destroyed a limited number of PFM-1 type clusters during the test of its pilot unit. Anyway, so far we have no any evidences that the «Stroyenergo» technology is safe and secure one. The proposed method of destruction is technically non-compliant under the provisions of the Arrangement between Belarus and the European Commission.

In any case, the Belarusian stockpiles of PFM-1 mines slightly decreased. By now it comprises 3 370 172 pieces. The mentioned figure is reflected in the latest Belarusian Annual Report provided under Article 7 of the Convention.

The Belarusian side will inform States Parties about any new developments on this topic according to mechanism established within the Convention.

Thank you for your attention.