

Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction
Addressing concerns about non-compliance with Article 4 of the Convention

Switzerland

Thank you Mr. Co-Chair,

Distinguished co-chairs and co-rapporteurs,

Please let me congratulate all of you for your efforts with respect to Article 4 of the Convention.

As you have pointed out, Stockpile destruction has been one of the mayor successes of the Convention. We would like to once again congratulate those states that have been successful in fulfilling their obligations and in completing destruction.

Switzerland is concerned that 4 states have failed to comply with the four-year deadline obligation to destroy or ensure the destruction of anti-personnel mines under their control or possession.

We are concerned because noncompliance with a core article of the treaty could put the credibility of the Convention at risk.

It is therefore of utmost importance that these States become again compliant with article 4 as soon as possible, without further delay. As Norway pointed out, the CAP provides guidelines for getting back into the status of compliance.

To Switzerland, it is particularly important that these countries continue to communicate the status of their destruction processes in an open and transparent way in correspondence with action 11 of the CAP. We encourage those countries to do everything possible to speed up their destruction process.

We thank Belarus, Greece, Turkey and Ukraine who provided us with updates today on the status of the implementation of their obligations. We would like to thank them for their transparency, and would urge them to keep us informed about the next stages in the destruction process.

We sincerely urge authorities of those countries to spare no effort to ensure that the destruction processes can be significantly accelerated and finalized. International cooperation is of utmost importance, but national ownership and taking national responsibilities are crucial.

We hope to get concrete figures, plans, final deadlines and more good news, rather than new delays, at the 10MSP.

Thank you