

On the Implementation of the Ottawa Convention in Ukraine

1. Ukraine, which inherited enormous stockpiles of ammunition and military equipment of the “cold war” era, as no other country strives to get rid of it as soon as possible.

2. Having voluntarily forsworn the third largest nuclear arsenal in the world in 1994, Ukraine is taking an active and consistent position in its disarmament and non-proliferation policy. The decision of the Ukrainian Government to get rid of all its stocks of highly-enriched uranium, announced during the Washington Nuclear Security Summit in April, 2010 has become another substantial contribution of Ukraine to the international efforts in strengthening the global security.

3. As of today, along with the problem of destruction over 6 million anti-personal land mines Ukraine faces a number of large-scale and urgent tasks to reduce weaponry and ammunition stockpiles existing on its territory, namely:

- the destruction of hundred of thousands of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and almost half a million tons of heavy ammunitions in the framework of NATO/PfP Trust Fund;

- the elimination of 16 thousand tons of liquid rocket fuel components (*melange*) within the OSCE joint project;

- the elimination of the solid rocket propellant under the Ukrainian-U.S. Umbrella Agreement dated October 25, 1993.

Each of the aforementioned projects requires allocation of substantial national financial resources. It is also urgent as their further storage may have potential dangerous impact on population and surrounding environment. It is also important for Ukraine to take effective measures to resolve the current problem on the clearance of its territory from the explosive remnants of World War I and World War II, because every year dozens of civilians become their innocent victims.

4. Recognizing the importance of the problem on elimination of the APLs stockpiles on its territory and acknowledging the inability to fulfill this task through its individual effort Ukraine acceded to the Ottawa Convention in 2006.

5. The lack of practical international assistance did not allow Ukraine to implement its obligations under the Article IV of the Convention in time Ukraine informed all State Parties in a *note verbale* on 18 May 2010. The only example of the real international assistance to Ukraine on APLs destruction was the project on elimination of 400 000 antipersonnel mines of PMN-type in the framework of NATO/PFP Trust Fund (Canada was the lead nation) in 2003. Unfortunately, our European partners unilaterally suspended our joint project with the European Commission on destruction of the APLs stockpiles in 2007.

6. Ukraine remains committed to its obligations under the Ottawa Convention and continues to carry out the APLs destruction process on its own. At the same time the absence of the efficient technological capabilities and the shortage of budgetary expenses does not allow Ukraine to maintain the appropriate dynamics in the APLs destruction process. Therefore, during the period from the end of 2008 up to 1 January 2010 Ukraine managed to destroy only 154.440 anti-personal mines. Taking into account the economic situation in Ukraine, caused by the global recession, the process of APLs destruction nowadays is put on hold.

7. Ukraine repeatedly appealed to the State Parties of the Convention requesting the possible assistance, in particular to provide technical improvements of the rotary kiln at Pavlograd chemical plant and install at this plant additional incinerator, produced by the Swedish company Dynasafe. In 2008 it was requested in the letter of Prime-minister of Ukraine addressed to the President of European Commission, as well as stated by the Ukrainian delegation during Cartagena Summit in 2009. Upon the condition of the proper operation of these two incinerators Ukraine would be able to destroy up to 2 millions of APLs a year and fulfill its obligations within 3 years.

8. Ukraine is still looking for technical and financial assistance to ensure its full implementation of the Ottawa Convention as soon as possible. As of today Ukraine resumed cooperation with European Commission in the framework of the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) Ukrainian National Programme (UNP) for 2011-2013. Ukraine also made a proposal to initiate the APLs destruction process in the framework of the NATO/PfP Trust Fund project, which is being considered by our US partners.

9. Ukraine remains open for the fruitful cooperation with the State Parties and potential donors and hopes for the practical assistance to make Ukrainian territory free from the PFM APLs stockpiles as soon as possible.