



Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer
of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

STANDING COMMITTEE ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION

CO-CHAIRS' NOTES TO MEETING PARTICIPANTS

May 30, 2002

Deadlines:

Deadlines for the destruction of stockpiles of anti-personnel mines, an aspect of implementation that is required by State Parties within 4 years of entry-into-force, are fast approaching. Deadlines for the first group of States Parties commence from **March 2003**. A number of States Parties may have difficulty meeting their deadlines in 2003 and beyond. To assist understanding of the situation regarding stockpiles, we are interested in hearing from States Parties on how their stockpile destruction processes are proceeding, and from donor countries and non-governmental organizations on how they could assist States Parties. Given the approaching deadlines some assistance may be needed for those countries that may have difficulty meeting their deadlines.

Notes on the agenda for the meeting:

Update on implementation

We **strongly encourage** States Parties to provide updates on their stockpile destruction in this session. These updates could cover the number of anti-personnel mines destroyed, techniques adopted, and plans to meet deadlines.

Matters related to implementation: Safety of stockpiles

There have been recent incidents involving the explosion of stored munitions including anti-personnel mines. This session will discuss these incidents and broader issues related to secure storage of stockpiles. We would encourage States Parties to share their technical or humanitarian insights into this issue, and to let the meeting know of any relevant safety or security issues related to storage of munitions, particularly anti-personnel mines, in their countries.

Update on assistance and cooperation

While the main obligation to carry out destruction of stockpiles rests with States Parties, other countries are encouraged to assist where possible. In this session we would be interested in hearing from States Parties about their particular technical or financial needs to complete stockpile destruction. We would also encourage donor countries to outline their contributions to programs aimed at assisting States Parties to carry out stockpile destruction, and future assistance that may be available.

Matters related to implementation: Technical aspects

This session will cover some relevant technical issues such as: industrial scale stockpile destruction, which is suitable for large scale destruction of stockpiles; and, PfM mines which are endemic to the former Soviet Union and pose particular problems for destruction. The session will review some basic technical principles for carrying out stockpile destruction.