

**Statement by Latvia  
Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention  
8 May 2006**

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for opportunity to address the Standing Committee for the first time and the first time in capacity of the State Party to the Ottawa convention. We are happy to join the family of 151 nations after some time of internal reflection and necessary adjustment to our defense doctrine.

Though Latvia joined convention only recently, she was applying its provisions for number of years in the past. In the past as well as this year Latvia submitted the voluntary report under Article 7 on the regular basis.

Latvia is not a land mine affected country, if we do not take into consideration the legacy of the second WW in some parts of the country. Latvia contributes to the mine clearance efforts at the level of its limited possibilities.

Latvia possesses small stockpiles of landmines – 2910 blasting mines PMN 2 and 881 bounding mines OZM-4. Destruction of the remaining mines will take place during 2006 in Zvarde military area. 1301 mines (420 PMN-2 and 881 OZM-4) will be retained for training purposes.

Latvia is ready to cooperate with all state parties and other stakeholders to implement the letter and the spirit of Ottawa convention.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.