

The General Status of Implementation of Article 4

Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction (Japan and the United Republic of Tanzania)

11 May 2006

Article 4 states that “except as provided for in Article 3, each State Party undertakes to destroy or ensure the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines it owns or possesses, or that are under its jurisdiction or control, as soon as possible but not later than four years after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party.”

Since the First Review Conference five States Parties have indicated that have completed implementation of Article 4 of the Convention – Algeria, Bangladesh, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania and Uruguay. In addition since the First Review Conference, Ethiopia, Latvia and Ukraine – three States which have indicated that they hold stockpiles – joined the Convention. Hence, fulfilling obligations under Article 4 of the Convention remains relevant for 14 States Parties. They are:

- Afghanistan
- Angola
- Belarus
- Burundi
- Cyprus
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Ethiopia
- Greece
- Guyana
- Latvia
- Serbia and Montenegro
- Sudan
- Turkey
- Ukraine

Consequently, there are 137 States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention – that’s over 70 percent of the world’s States – that now no longer hold stocks of anti-personnel mines, either because they never did or because they have completed their destruction programmes. With a such a larger number of States now forever more without anti-personnel mines in their arsenals and with the States Parties having reported destroying over 38 million mines, we are well on our way to a mine free world.

However, as noted by the Zagreb Progress Report, while the number of States Parties for which stockpile destruction remains relevant has been reduced to a small number – 14 – several challenges remain:

- States Parties like Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan are emerging from years of conflict and may not know the extent to which stockpiled anti-personnel mines exist in areas under their jurisdiction. In addition, in some instances these States Parties may not have control over all such areas.
- For Belarus and Ukraine, the destruction of vast numbers of the particularly insidious PFM-1 mine remains a challenge.
- For Serbia and Montenegro, the sheer volume of mines that must be destroyed presents a challenge.

- States Parties like Cyprus, Greece, Latvia and Turkey face a different kind of challenge. That is, States Parties like these are challenged by the imperative under Article 4 to destroy their stocks “as soon as possible”, with “as soon as possible” logically implying relatively sooner than later for such States that have achieved a high state of economic development.
- And for States Parties like Ethiopia and Guyana, part of the challenge lies in simply reporting, as required, the number and types of stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

Indeed, the matter of reporting on this matter, as required under Article 7, is also pertinent for several other States Parties which we understand do not hold stockpiles but which have not yet formally confirmed this fact. For instance, Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia and Sao Tome and Principe have not yet provided an initial Article 7 report as required. In addition, initial reports will soon be due from some of the newest States Parties not already mentioned, including Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cook Islands, Haiti and Vanuatu.

While the responsibility to destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines rests with each individual State Party with stockpiles under its control or jurisdiction, the Convention calls for others in a position to do so to assist. In most instances it has been demonstrated that States Parties can fulfill Article 4 obligations with their own resources. However, in instances when appeals are made for technical or other assistance, it is imperative that the Convention community responds.

Please allow me to conclude by suggesting certain logical targets for progress in the implementation of Article 4. By the end of 2006, when we will have passed through the second of five years in the application of the Nairobi Action Plan, our hope is:

- that the Democratic Republic of the Congo will have complied with its Article 4 obligations by the time of its deadline to do so on 1 November 2006;
- that States Parties that have achieved a relatively high level of economic development will have displayed leadership in destroying their stockpiles as soon as possible;
- that all other States Parties in the process of fulfilling Article 4 obligations will have a clear plan in place to ensure that to comply with their deadlines; and,
- that all States Parties will have reported on their stockpile status as required under Article 7 of the Convention.

Thank you.

Timelines for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 4

State Party	2003			2004			2005			2006			2007			2008			2009			2010																	
	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M
Afghanistan	[Yellow bar]																																						
Angola	[Yellow bar]																																						
Belarus	[Yellow bar]																																						
Burundi	[Yellow bar]																																						
Cyprus	[Yellow bar]																																						
DRC	[Red bar]																																						
Ethiopia	[Yellow bar]																																						
Greece	[Yellow bar]																																						
Guyana	[Yellow bar]																																						
Latvia	[Yellow bar]																																						
Serbia and Montenegro	[Yellow bar]																																						
Sudan	[Yellow bar]																																						
Turkey	[Yellow bar]																																						
Ukraine	[Yellow bar]																																						

Key:

- States Parties with deadlines in 2007 and beyond.
- States Parties with deadlines in 2006.