

**Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction<sup>1</sup>  
Geneva, 25 May 2009**

**Intervention on behalf of the UN Mine Action Team  
Delivered by Gustavo Laurie, (UNMAS)**

*Madame*  
Mister Co-Chair,

Thank you for this opportunity to deliver the following statement on behalf of the United Nations Mine Action Team (UNMAT), comprising the 14 UN partners involved in mine action.

Destruction of stockpiles of antipersonnel mines is a key obligation in the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). It is therefore important to ensure that stockpile destructions activities take place in a timely and secure manner.

Ethiopia, a State Party currently receiving support from the UN in mine action, through UNDP, announced the completion of its Article 4 obligations in the occasion of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. We congratulate Ethiopia for this significant achievement.

The UN has also supported Afghanistan in destroying stockpiles of antipersonnel mines found after declaring completion of Article 4 obligations and we stand ready to support the destruction of the accumulative stockpiles of antipersonnel and anti-vehicle mines in Niger.

We encourage all States Parties to meet their stockpile destruction deadlines and we urge those States Parties that have not done to comply with their Article 4 obligation as early as possible and before the Cartagena Review Conference, so the relevant review document could report 100% compliance with this treaty obligation.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Co-Chairs: Italy and Zambia