

REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA  
11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the State Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty  
Statement in relation to the discovery of stockpiled PFM1-S Mines

*November 25, 2011*

In 2011, in an effort to determine what munitions held by the armed forces of Macedonia would need to be destroyed in accordance with obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Macedonia's armed forces discovered 8 cassettes containing approximately 500 of PFM1-S type anti-personnel mines (464 kilos in total).

In May, 2011, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia adopted a decision to commence activities for destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines and tasked the MoD to implement this decision.

In June 2011, the Implementation Support Unit wrote to the Permanent Mission of Macedonia to the United Nations in Geneva to offer its advice regarding reporting on this matter and to suggest technical advisory services that may be available to assist Macedonia in the destruction of these mines. In September 2011, the Director of the ISU, along with a technical expert from the GICHD, met with the Permanent Representative of Macedonia to the United Nations in Geneva to advise on reporting on this matter in accordance with Convention obligations and Cartagena Action Plan commitments, and, to offer advice on the destruction of the mines. In November 2011, the Ministry of Defence of Macedonia contacted the GICHD with respect to making arrangements for a mission by a technical expert to destroy the mines in Macedonia's possession. Notwithstanding the technicalities normally associated with the destruction of large numbers of PFM1 type mines, the small quantity makes it likely that all mines could be destroyed early in 2012 and in a relatively easy manner.

In accordance with Action 12 of the Cartagena Action Plan, Macedonia will report on this matter in 2012 in accordance with its obligations under Article 7 of the Convention, take advantage of the May 2012 meeting of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction to share information on progress in the destruction of the mines and question and, as soon as possible, destroy these anti-personnel mines as a matter of urgent priority.