

6/12
AM

**Statement by the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on
Stockpile Destruction**

(Germany and Romania)

6 December 2012

It has been an honour to serve as the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction.

While the number of States Parties for which Article 4 obligations are still relevant is small, the challenges we face in completion of implementation of Article 4 are great.

We have done our best to encourage further progress in this area.

Through the meeting of the Standing Committee in May, we provided a platform for those States Parties still in the process of destroying stockpiled mines to report on their progress and to highlight any remaining challenges.

It remains a concern that Belarus, Greece and Ukraine are non-compliant with their obligations and that each has a sizeable number of mines that remain to be destroyed.

However, we should be grateful for the ongoing commitment of each to bring itself into a state of compliance, in part by working closely with those in a position to assist.

We hope that Belarus, Greece and Ukraine will provide further clarity at this meeting on steps they taking to ensure the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

.....
Thank you Mr. President,

As I am taking the floor for the first time, I am joining the previous distinguished speakers in congratulating you for assuming the presidency of the 12MSP and for the diligence in the smooth running of the meeting.

I also thank my German colleague, Dr. Florian Reindel, for introducing our common statement in our capacity of Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction.

As Co-Chairs, we have also encouraged transparency on the part of those States Parties which have reported previously unknown stocks of anti-personnel mines.

We were pleased that the Former Yugoslav Republic of **Macedonia** acted promptly in destroying previously unknown stocks that it had reported last year.

We encourage others, including **Guinea-Bissau** and **South Sudan**, to also update us on their efforts to destroy previously unknown stocks that they had reported.

As we end our term and hand over matters to our presumed successors, Nigeria and Norway, we also hand over to them additional business.

It has been a great achievement that the Convention, this year, entered into force for Finland, Somalia and Tuvalu, and that Poland has announced that its ratification of the Convention is imminent.

Poland and **Finland** have both indicated that they have stocks to destroy and we look forward to witnessing their progress in stockpile destruction.

For **Somalia**, we encourage efforts to acquire the information necessary to fulfil its transparency obligations by reporting on all stockpiled anti-personnel mines under its jurisdiction or control and on programmes for their destruction.

And for **Tuvalu**, while it has indicated it has no stocks, we encourage it to formally declare this through its initial information submission required under Article 7 of the Convention.

In closing, we wish to thank all those who supported our efforts in 2012.