

Notes for ICRC Intervention on stockpile destruction

12th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention Geneva, 6 December 2012

The ICRC would like to thank all delegations which took the floor for their detailed explanations of the status of their plans to destroy their remaining stocks of anti-personnel mines in accordance with their obligations under Article 4 of the Convention.

We wish to congratulate **Poland** for its announcement that it will very soon become Party to the Convention. Poland is already off to a very good start in terms of fulfilling its Article 4 obligations, having announced destruction of 97% of its stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

We were very satisfied to hear that there has been a breakthrough in **Greece**, which should see a new contract entered into soon for the destruction of its full stockpile of 953,285 anti-personnel mines. As Greece has now been non-compliant with its Article 4 deadline for almost five years, we expect that by the 2013 Intersessional Meetings it will be in a position to declare that stockpile destruction has resumed and provide an anticipated date for completion.

We were also very pleased to hear that the destruction of stockpiles in **Belarus** will finally commence in the first half of 2013. Almost five years after Belarus' Article 4 deadline has expired, we appreciate the efforts of the Belarusian Government to remedy this situation and acknowledge the assistance provided by the European Commission. We urge the parties involved to expedite the process and hope that by the 13th Meeting of States Parties Belarus will be in a position to declare the full destruction of its stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

We would also like to thank the **Ukraine** for its detailed presentation today, and for the progress it has made this year in the destruction of some of its stockpiled anti-personnel mines. We are delighted that the destruction of 3 million PFM mines will commence in the coming weeks. We understand that destruction of these 3 million mines should take 3 years, although it was unclear to us either who will support the Ukraine with destroying the balance of almost 3 million PFM mines. We also did not catch the timeframe for destruction of the remaining POM-2 or OZM-4 mines, which we urge the Ukraine to destroy urgently.

Regarding new States Parties to the Convention, the ICRC thanks **Finland** for its very positive statement that it will finalise the destruction of its stockpiled anti-personnel mines by the end of 2015. We take the opportunity to remind Finland that should it decide to retain some anti-personnel mines, it should ensure that the number does not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for the purposes mentioned in Article 3 of the Convention. We look forward to further information by both **Finland** and **Somalia** on the status of their stockpiles through their reports to be submitted under Article 7 of the Convention.

Finally, we thank **Guinea Bissau** for its update and hope that it will be in a position to destroy its small stockpile of anti-personnel mines very soon. We commend **Cote d'Ivoire** for declaring today a newly discovered stockpile of anti-personnel landmines, and we are pleased to hear that the small stockpile in **South Sudan** that was reported at the 11th MSP will be fully destroyed in 2013. We thank these States for their transparency and urge other States that find themselves in a similar situation to be similarly transparent with the States Parties in future.