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### Co-chair Statement Stockpile Destruction

Check against delivery

Thank you, Mr. President.

Norway has, together with Nigeria, served as Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction this year. We would like to take the opportunity to thank Nigeria for the cooperation, as well as welcoming Poland as Nigeria's successor and our new partner in the Standing Committee.

Destroying all stockpiled antipersonnel mines remains a challenge for a few States Parties. However, it should engage all State Parties, as compliance with the stockpile destruction obligations is a core obligation of this Convention. The importance of stockpile destruction as a preventive measure cannot be underestimated. The use of antipersonnel mines in Yemen, unfortunately actualizes this fact. Where do these mines come from?

It remains a serious concern that Belarus, Ukraine and Greece are non-compliant with their Article 4 obligations. We would like to thank the delegation of Greece for being forthcoming with information and earlier this week giving us an update on their situation. We very much welcome Greece's transparency and their concrete plans to commence the destruction in early 2014.

We are also looking forward to hearing concrete updates from Belarus and Ukraine and we would like to commend Ukraine for having provided us with their latest information.

However, we must see immediate and sufficient determination to get into compliance and we strongly encourage these states parties to commence destruction, so to be able to report at the review Conference that destruction is well underway with target dates for completion.

In order to ensure that these cases soon can be put behind us, we need that all States Parties engage and pay attention to the stockpile destruction challenges that still remain. As co-chairs for stockpile destruction we will do what we can to end this regrettable situation.

Thank you, Mr. President