
**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention
on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel
Mines and on Their Destruction**

21 October 2015

Original: English

Fourteenth Meeting

Geneva, 30 November - 4 December 2015

Item 2 (f) of the provisional agenda**Operation and status of the Convention. Presentation, reporting,
discussion and decision with regard to: Stockpile destruction****The status of implementation of article 4 (stockpile
destruction) of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Conclusions of the President of the Fourteenth Meeting of the
States Parties****Submitted by the President of the Fourteenth Meeting of the States
Parties****Maputo Action Plan, action #5:**

1. In the Maputo Action Plan, it was agreed that “each State Party that has missed its deadline for the completion of its Article 4 obligations will provide to the States Parties, through the President, by 31 December 2014, a plan for the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines under its control or jurisdiction as soon as possible, and thereafter keep the States Parties apprised of efforts to implement its plan through annual transparency reports and other means.”¹ On 4 December 2014, the Presidency of the Third Review Conference wrote to the three States Parties concerned – Belarus, Greece and Ukraine – to remind them of this commitment.
2. Belarus, on 29 December 2014, provided information noting the technical complexity associated with destroying the PFM type mine, and that, as of 3 November 2014, 3,370,316 mines remained to be destroyed. Belarus further reported that, according to estimation of the company Explosivos Alaveses SA (EXPAL), all mines, apart from those considered being in an unsafe condition, will be destroyed by 1 November 2016 by EXPAL. The President concluded that Belarus had acted in a transparent manner in response to Action #5 of the Maputo Action Plan.
3. In noting that Belarus reiterated its commitment to its Convention obligations and to pursuing all means to ensure compliance with Article 4 as soon as possible, the President observed in June 2015 that Belarus may wish to confirm that all mines considered to be in an unsafe condition by EXPAL will also be destroyed by 1 November 2016. At the

¹ Maputo Action Plan, action #5.



Convention's June 2015 intersessional meetings, Belarus clarified that it intends to destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines on its territory. Belarus also indicated that EXPAL had asked for an extension of the agreement between Belarus and the European Commission until the end of 2017. The President concluded that Belarus may wish to confirm whether it now projects that stockpile destruction will be completed by the end of 2017, rather than by 1 November 2016, as was previously indicated.

4. Greece, on 31 December 2014, provided information noting that, on 1 October 2014, an explosion occurred at the facilities of the company in Bulgaria contracted to destroy Greece's mines and that work has been suspended indefinitely. Greece further indicated that it is reviewing all possible options in an effort to adhere to its initial intention to complete the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines by the end of 2015. Greece reported that, as of 31 December 2014, a total of 690,351² anti-personnel mines remained to be destroyed. The President concluded that Greece had acted in a transparent manner in response to Action #5 of the Maputo Action Plan.

5. In noting that the explosion at the facilities of the company contracted to destroy the mines could affect Greece's original aim of destroying all stockpiled anti-personnel mines by the end of 2015, the President observed in June 2015 that clarity on this matter by Greece would be welcomed. At the Convention's June 2015 intersessional meetings, Greece provided clarifications, reporting that it was in discussions with Bulgarian authorities regarding the return to Greece of anti-personnel mines that had been transferred to Bulgaria, that cooperation between the two States Parties was excellent and that preparations were underway that would see all remaining stockpiled anti-personnel mines destroyed by Hellene Defence Systems at its plant in Lavrio, Greece. In addition, Greece further noted that it would provide, to the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties, a timetable for the completion of stockpile destruction.

6. Ukraine, on 29 December 2014, indicated that "the Ukrainian side plans to present all the information available regarding the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines under its control or jurisdiction during the Meeting of Experts of States Parties to the APLC to be held in 2015." The President concluded that Ukraine did not act in accordance with Action #5 of the Maputo Action Plan to "provide to the States Parties, through the President, by 31 December 2014, a plan for the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines under its control or jurisdiction as soon as possible."

7. At the Convention's June 2015 intersessional meetings, Ukraine reported that all stockpiled anti-personnel mines in areas under Ukraine's jurisdiction are also in areas under its control, with the exception of 605 stockpiled anti-personnel mines, which are in areas outside of Ukraine's effective control. Ukraine further reported that no stockpile destruction is currently taking place given financial constraints and that talks are occurring concerning obtaining financial assistance necessary to complete destruction. The President concluded that Ukraine still has not provided a plan for the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines under its control or jurisdiction in accordance with its Maputo Action Plan commitments. The President further concluded, that, as Ukraine has expressed a need for financial assistance to complete implementation, clarity on the status of discussions related to obtaining such assistance would be welcomed.

² While Greece had reported 690,353 anti-personnel mines in the information provided on 31 December 2014, Greece later corrected this to read 690,351.

Maputo Action Plan, action #6:

8. In the Maputo Action Plan, it was agreed that “each State Party in the process of destroying its stockpiled anti-personnel mines will regularly communicate to the States Parties, through annual transparency reports and other means, plans to fulfil its obligations and progress achieved, highlighting as early as possible any issues of concern.”³ As of 23 September 2015, the following States Parties provided updated information on the total of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed by them, or under their jurisdiction or control, and / or on anti-personnel mines transferred for the purposes of destruction, and / or the status of programmes for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines and / or on the types and quantities of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines destroyed: Belarus, Bulgaria, Finland, Greece and Poland.

9. In information provided by Belarus in accordance with its Article 7 transparency obligations, Belarus reported that 2,862,068 stockpiled anti-personnel mines remained to be destroyed as of 1 January 2015, that cumulative total of 806,307 stockpiled anti-personnel mines had been destroyed by 1 January 2015. Information was provided on the quantity and lot numbers of each type of anti-personnel mine. At the Convention’s June 2015 intersessional meetings, Belarus reported that, during the period 26 March 2014 to 1 June 2015, 899,856 stockpiled PFM-1 type anti-personnel mines had been destroyed. The President, in noting the large quantity of stockpiled anti-personnel mines that had been destroyed, concluded that clarity would be welcomed on the number and types of stockpiled anti-personnel mines that remained to be destroyed.

10. In information provided by Bulgaria in accordance with its Article 7 transparency obligations, Bulgaria reported that 500,590 stockpiled anti-personnel mines had been transferred from Greece to Gorni Lom, Bulgaria for the purposes of destruction. Information was provided on the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine. Bulgaria reported that the institution authorised by Bulgaria to receive the transfer was VIDEX JSC. At the Convention’s June 2015 intersessional meetings, Bulgaria reported that, on 1 October 2014, when an explosion occurred at the VIDEX destruction plant, 197,600 anti-personnel mines were stored at the plant. Of this number, 6,986 anti-personnel mines were destroyed during the explosion or recovered and destroyed afterwards, and 190,614 anti-personnel mines remained. Bulgaria further reported that Bulgaria and Greece were in consultations regarding the return of these mines to Greece.

11. In information provided by Finland in accordance with its Article 7 transparency obligations, Finland reported that 4,552 stockpiled anti-personnel mines remained to be destroyed as of 31 December 2014, and that, during the period 1 July 2012 to 31 December 2014, 1,005,109 stockpiled anti-personnel mines had been destroyed.⁴ Information was provided on the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine. Finland also provided information on the methods used in the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines and the location of destruction sites. At the Convention’s June 2015 intersessional meetings, Finland reported that 4,500 anti-personnel mines remained to be destroyed and that destruction would be complete by the end of 2015. On 22 September 2015, Finland informed the Convention’s Implementation Support Unit that, on 18 August 2015, Finland had completed implementation of Article 4 of the Convention. The President concluded that Finland had reported that it had destroyed all stockpiled anti-personnel mines under its jurisdiction or control well before its deadline.

³ Maputo Action Plan, action #6.

⁴ While Finland reported possessing 21,052 stockpiled anti-personnel mines, it is assumed that the actual total was 4,552 given that it appears that the 16,500 anti-personnel mines retained by Finland for permitted purposes had been inadvertently included in the 21,052 figure.

12. In information provided by Greece in accordance with its Article 7 transparency obligations, Greece reported that 690,351 stockpiled anti-personnel mines remained to be destroyed as of 31 December 2014, that 500,590 stockpiled anti-personnel mines had been transferred to Bulgaria for the purposes of destruction in 2014, that of these 500,590 mines 262,934 had been destroyed in 2014, and that, in total to date, 877,816 have been destroyed. Information was provided on the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine. At the Convention's June 2015 intersessional meetings, Greece reported that, as of that time, 643,309 stockpiled anti-personnel mines remained to be destroyed, including 452,695 mines stored in Greece and 190,614 stored in Bulgaria. As noted, both Bulgaria and Greece reported in June 2015 that they are in discussions related to the return of these 190,614 mines to Greece for destruction.

13. In information provided by Poland in accordance with its Article 7 transparency obligations, Poland reported that information on stockpiled anti-personnel mines that remained to be destroyed, its programme for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines and the types and quantities of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines destroyed since entry into force was the same as that provided in 2013. In 2013, Poland reported that there were 16,597 PSM-1-type stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed by Poland, or under its jurisdiction or control as of 1 June 2013. In 2013, Poland further reported that the process of destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines had started in 2011, that all remaining stockpiled anti-personnel mines had been gathered in five central storage facilities in 2013, and that a contractor for the destruction of the mines would be chosen in 2014.

14. In June 2015, the President observed that, since no additional information was furnished in 2015 on the status of Poland's programme for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines, an update provided by Poland would be welcomed. At the Convention's June 2015 intersessional meetings, Poland clarified that, in March 2015, Poland signed a contract related to the destruction of these 16,597 mines with the NATO Support and Procurement Agency and that stockpile destruction should be complete in June 2016.

15. In information provided by Ukraine in accordance with its Article 7 transparency obligations, Ukraine reported that 5,584,373 stockpiled anti-personnel mines remained to be destroyed as of 1 January 2015. Information was provided on the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine. Ukraine also reported that 605 of the stockpiled anti-personnel mines that remain to be destroyed are in areas outside of Ukraine's effective control. In addition, Ukraine reported that, during the period 1 January 2014 to 1 January 2015, 576 stockpiled anti-personnel mines had been destroyed.

16. At the Convention's June 2015 intersessional meetings, Ukraine reiterated that 5,584,373 stockpiled anti-personnel mines remained to be destroyed and again provided the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine. Ukraine also reported that it had destroyed 1,219,008 stockpiled anti-personnel mines and provided the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine destroyed. The President concluded that clarification would be welcomed given that the cumulative number of mines that Ukraine had reported that it had destroyed exceeded the total number of destroyed mines that had previously been reported.⁵ The President further concluded that, with the large number of mines that remained to be destroyed years after the passage of Ukraine's stockpiled destruction deadline and with

⁵ Part II of the final report of the 2014 Third Review Conference recorded that, on the basis of information previously provided by Ukraine, Ukraine had destroyed 1'208'371 stockpiled anti-personnel mines by the time of the Review Conference.

little progress in destruction in 2014 and 2015, all States Parties should be seized of this matter.

Maputo Action Plan, action #7:

17. In the Maputo Action Plan, it was agreed that “each State Party which discovers previously unknown stockpiles after stockpile destruction deadlines have passed will inform the States Parties as soon as possible, report pertinent information as required by the Convention, and destroy these anti-personnel mines as a matter of urgent priority and no later than six months after the report of their discovery.”⁶ As of 23 September 2015, the following States Parties provided updated information on the destruction of previously unknown stockpiled anti-personnel mines: Afghanistan and Cambodia.

18. In information provided by Afghanistan in accordance with its Article 7 transparency obligations, Afghanistan reported that, during the period 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014, 1,318 previously unknown stockpiled anti-personnel mines had been destroyed by weapons and ammunition disposal (WAD) teams. Information was provided on the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine destroyed. At the Convention’s June 2015 intersessional meetings, Afghanistan provided additional details, including by informing the States Parties that WAD operations, which are coordinated by the Ministry of Defence, are ongoing and regularly result in the discovery of small number of previously unknown stockpiled anti-personnel mines and the handover of such mines by local commanders who had been involved in previous conflicts.

19. In information provided by Cambodia in accordance with its Article 7 transparency obligations, Cambodia reported that, during the period 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014, 562 stockpiled anti-personnel mines had been destroyed by the Mines Advisory Group and the CSHD.

20. The President concluded that some States Parties report anti-personnel mines retained for purposes permitted under Article 3 of the Convention as “stockpiled anti-personnel mines.” The President concluded that, to ensure clarity and avoid double counting, anti-personnel mines retained for permitted purposes should not be reported as “stockpiled anti-personnel mines” and should be reported separately. The President further concluded that the draft guide to reporting could assist States Parties in providing transparency in an unambiguous manner on matters concerning both Articles 3 and 4 of the Convent

⁶ Maputo Action Plan, action #7.