

Statement on Stockpile Destruction
14th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty
3 December 2015



Thank you Mr Chair.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines warmly congratulates **Finland** for completing the destruction of its stockpiles ahead of the deadline.

We recognize that Belarus, Greece, and Ukraine are not in willful violation of the treaty. None desire to maintain an operational stockpile of antipersonnel mines, and each has been trying to surmount difficult technical, financial, and even legal hurdles. **Belarus** referred [in the past] to a timetable for the destruction of all mines that are not deemed to be in “unsafe condition”, and it is good news that the destruction of those mines is underway. But this leaves uncertainty regarding the mines deemed to be in “unsafe condition.” The authorities should start developing a plan and finding solutions, instead of waiting until November 2016. We welcome **Greece’s** efforts to look into alternatives after destruction activities became impossible in Bulgaria. We hope the timetable will be shared very soon, possibly through a communication to the Presidency or at the latest in the next transparency report. In **Ukraine**, under the present circumstances, we hope the authorities can find innovative solutions to advance stockpile destruction and we encourage donor states to take part in those.

We also expected to hear from Somalia, since in 2013 **Somalia** noted in its initial transparency report that it was making efforts to verify if it holds antipersonnel mines in its stockpiles, but no transparency report has been submitted since then that would provide an update on findings.

Thirty-eight States Parties retain more than 1,000 mines each for permitted purposes, with three of them retaining more than 12,000 mines. The ICBL is concerned with the large number of States Parties that are retaining mines but apparently not using those mines for permitted purposes: the number of mines retained remains the same each year, indicating none are being consumed during training or research activities. In addition, there are three states where the number of mines retained has increased without any explanation – Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom. There are also a number of states that have reported decreases in the number of mines retained, but have not explained why. We trust the new reporting guide submitted for adoption this week will help improve transparency in this regard.

Thank you.