

## **SIXTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES**

**28 NOVEMBER TO 3 DECEMBER 2005**

### **STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION**

#### **Opening Statement**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The thematic discussion on destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines is intended to focus on those obligations States Parties have under Article 4 of the Convention, on the relevant actions in the Nairobi Action Plan, that is Actions Items 9-16, and – most particularly - on the relevant section in the draft Zagreb Progress Report. Firstly, I will give a general overview of the status of implementation of Article 4 and a brief outline of the work of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction.

Secondly, I will give the floor to those States Parties that have indicated, since the First Review Conference, that they have completed their Article 4 obligations. Lastly, I will open the floor for States Parties and observers to provide updates on how they have applied Actions #9 to #16 of the Nairobi Action Plan over the past year and to share views on the stockpile destruction section of the draft Zagreb Progress Report. In particular, we would very much like to hear from those 13 States Parties that are in the process of fulfilling their obligations under Article 4.

As we all are aware on 3 December last year the States Parties agreed an historic document entitled “Ending the Suffering Caused by Anti-personnel Mines: Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009”. We have had and will have many references to that plan this week. The work before us is to examine the progress we have been able to achieve in the one year since Nairobi as outlined in the draft Zagreb Progress Report – the

expected product from this meeting. The Nairobi Action Plan recognized the relative success of Article 4 of the Convention and went on to declare that the States Parties were resolved to maintain that success.

At the close of the Review Conference 16 States Parties still had an obligation to destroy their stocks and five have done so since that time. Moreover, four more States have since joined the Convention, two of which have informally indicated they do not hold stocks, leaving us with 13 States Parties left with their destruction obligation. It should be noted that not all of the original number have completed their Article Seven reports and we urge them to do so. All of this to say that we continue to make progress and we look forward to the challenges posed by more countries joining this Convention.

In the Action Plan, the States Parties adopted eight action items to take us to the next review conference. The action items were grouped into three categories, those related to States parties yet to complete their destruction programmes, those States Parties in a position to provide assistance under the terms of Article 6, and a category related to all States parties.

In the first grouping applicable to States Parties in the process of destroying their stocks, States Parties were expected to:

- conduct a full inventory of their stocks and report that information in an Article 7 report (all but three have complied);
- establish the national capacity to destroy these weapons and identify their problems, plans, progress and priorities for assistance

as well as disclose their own contributions to their destruction programmes (seven have indicated they have achieved this aim); and

- complete their destruction obligation if possible in advance of their deadlines (five have done so);

The second category applicable to all States Parties in a position to do so, calls upon those States Parties to promptly provide assistance under the terms of Article 6 to those with a clearly demonstrated need and to support the investigation of destruction methodologies to deal with PFM mines. That too has been achieved; in fact the work done by the European Commission in regard to resolving the challenges of destroying the PFM mine is particularly noteworthy and I would like to personally congratulate Ms Daniela Diccoradi-Andreonitti and her team from the European Commission for their tremendous work on this issue.

In the last category, that of calling on all States Parties that discover previously unknown stocks to report those discoveries and to destroy them as a matter of priority, we can also declare progress in that one State Party has formally reported and destroyed these additional stocks.

I would like to briefly report on some of the activities undertaken by the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction.

The Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs of Standing Committee established a goal that “by the close of the Sixth Meeting of States Parties (28 November – 2 December 2005) stockpile destruction will be an obligation relevant for at the most 7 States Parties (Afghanistan, Belarus,

Ethiopia, Greece, Serbia and Montenegro, Sudan and Turkey).” A goal of course is a desired outcome which cannot always be achieved but we are pleased to report that one State Party accepted that challenge and completed its destruction in time for this meeting.

In regards to the Nairobi Action Plan we agreed to continue to use it as our guide for our work this past year and we would encourage our successors to do the same.

In regard to technical issues surrounding Article 4 obligations we heard presentations on challenges posed resulting from destroying another type of mine, ADAM, and would encourage future Standing Committees to investigate this issue as at least two States Parties have yet to destroy this type of mine.

We also heard about a hopefully unique problem related to multi-function fuses. Simplistically this issue is related to directional weapons held by at least one State Party. These directional weapons are packaged and stored with only a command detonated or soldier in the loop detonation system. However a victim activated fuse is also held separately. This fuse has a number of legal uses but it can also be affixed to the directional weapon. We would encourage the Standing Committee to examine this issue to determine solutions.

Finally I would like to draw your attention to Annex II to the draft Zagreb Progress Report as it regards deadlines. This chart illustrates where we are. Only one State Party, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has a deadline in 2006. Three in 2007, Afghanistan, Angola and

Cyprus. Seven in 2008, Belarus, Burundi, Greece, Guyana, Serbia and Montenegro, Sudan and Turkey. Two in 2009, Ethiopia and Latvia.

As mentioned, our aim with this session is really two-fold: First, it is a chance for updates to be provided on what you have done over the past year to apply the relevant section of the Nairobi Action Plan. I would urge you to keep your remarks to no more than five minutes and provide only new information -- information that pertains to what has happened since Nairobi. Second, this session is a chance for you to comment on the relevant section of the draft Zagreb Progress Report.

I would now like to open the floor to those States Parties that have indicated, since the First Review Conference, that they have completed the destruction of their stockpiles.

- Algeria
- Guinea Bissau

I would now like to give the floor to those States Parties and observers to provide updates on how they have applied Actions #9 to #16 of the Nairobi Action Plan over the past year and to share views on the stockpile destruction section of the draft Zagreb Progress Report.

- Speakers List