



THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

***Seventh Meeting of the State Parties of the
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,
Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of
Anti-personnel Mines on Their Destruction***

Statement by Mr. Eugen Revenco

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to the United Nations Office in Geneva

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Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Implementation of the Ottawa Convention requires a clear understanding of its provisions, the obligation it imposes and the possibilities it affords. In this order of ideas, on behalf of my country I would like to make a short update on the implementation of the provisions of this Convention.

The Republic of Moldova completed the destruction of its entire anti-personnel stockpile four years ago, far ahead of the March 2005 deadline. As permitted by Art. 3 of the Convention, my country has retained 249 remotely controlled mines of Soviet manufacture, for training purposes in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques. In the period 19 May – 8 June 2006, by the national army were destroyed these last 249 retained landmines (59 units OZM72, 12 units MON50 and 170 units MON100), by electric method, with respect of all environmental standards. It should be mentioned that no mines were transferred or acquired for training purposes.

These actions are the testimony of Moldova's consistent policy in support of the Mine Ban Convention and its main goal – a mine free world, and I would like to assure the state parties that my country will remain committed to implement all its obligations under the Ottawa Convention.

In the same context, I am pleased to inform that there were no **landmine victims** registered in the Republic of Moldova.

My country provides assistance within the framework of the de-mining and clearance programs in the mine-affected territories, in accordance to the provisions of the **Art 6 of the Convention**. In July this year another 9 de-miners were deployed in Iraq for the de-mining and clearance activities, as part of the Stabilization International Forces.

Moldova will continue to remain involved in humanitarian mine clearance operations abroad as part of the international efforts to reduce the threat posed by landmines in specific regions. This will clearly require further training of the Moldovan military.

The Republic of Moldova did not adopt **new legislation for the implementation** of the Ottawa Convention's provisions, because the existing laws are sufficient. In this order of ideas it should be mentioned that was launched the ratification procedure of the amended Protocol V and Art I of the CCW, an international instrument strongly linked to the Convention.

It should be mentioned that all presented figures do not apply to the Transnistrian region, presently under control of a separatist regime, so that Moldova cannot assure the implementation of the Ottawa Convention provision on that territory, as well do not have exact dates regarding the number and types of its stockpiles.

Taking into the consideration that in the transnistrian region there are a lot of factories that are part of the military-industrial complex, having huge potential of production of different types of ammunitions, my country favors the organization of a permanent international monitoring mission of these factories, that will bring more clarity in the issue of the destination of its exported products.

The Republic of Moldova is a neutral state. Consequently, Moldovan troops are not allowed to participate in any *joint military operations*. The Art. 11 of our Constitution prohibit the dispersal of foreign military troops and their ammunitions on the Moldovan territory.

However, on a part of the Moldovan territory there is an illegal presence of a foreign army, notably of the Russian Federation. Despite the international commitment and obligations taken at Istanbul OSCE Summit in 1999, to unconditionally withdraw, before first of January 2003, all its military troops and ammunitions, this non-desired and unauthorized foreign military presence continues.

In this context, my country strongly supports the initiative to organize an international inspection of the Russian stockpiles of anti-personnel mines and landmines held by its military forces, deployed illegally on the transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova (from the perspective of security measures, ammunitions accounting, accordance of the data indicated in the official papers to the real one, etc.), asking for an immediate withdrawal or destruction of the existing stockpiles, in conditions of full transparency.

Thank you for your attention.