



*Islamic Republic of Afghanistan*

**Statement  
by**

**Government of the I. R. of Afghanistan**

**Consideration of the General Status and Operations under article 4 in Afghanistan**

**7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the State Parties to the Convention  
on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of  
Antipersonnel Mines and their Destruction**

**Geneva  
20 September 2006**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Madame President,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Destruction of anti personal mines is a task that Afghanistan must accomplish and must complete by March 2007 according to the Ottawa Treaty.

As the deadline for the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines approaches, we can say with confidence that all known stockpiles in Afghanistan are or will be destroyed almost immediately. However, Afghanistan is a rugged country with many factions and remote villages.

Despite the challenges that come hand in hand with stockpile destruction, Afghanistan can still boast great progress in this area. Since Afghanistan joined the Ottawa Convention, 462,206 anti-personnel mines have been destroyed. Since the last meeting of the state parties in Zagreb we have destroyed more than 400,000 anti personnel mines. A total of 2,833 anti-personnel mines have been retained for training and the accreditation of mine detection dogs.

We are hopeful <sup>of</sup> ~~to~~ reporting higher figures of destroyed stockpiles as the March 2007 deadline approaches. Survey and destruction teams are working hard and under difficult security conditions, to discover more Anti Personnel Mine~~s~~ caches.

We are thankful to the support of our donors for making this progress possible and hope that we will have the continued support of the international community so that we can give ~~Afghans~~ <sup>our people</sup> the chance for peace and prosperity that they so deserve

Thank you for your attention

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