

At the close of the 7MSP, it was reported that the obligation, contained in Article 4 of the Convention, to destroy or ensure the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines, may remain relevant for 12 States Parties.

Since that time, Afghanistan, Angola, Cyprus and Serbia reported that they had fulfilled their Article 4 obligations.

Information was also made available indicating that Montenegro transferred its entire stock of anti-personnel mines to Serbia for destruction, Guyana submitted its initial transparency report clarifying that it does not possess stockpiled anti-personnel mines, and Indonesia – a State which had previously indicated that it possessed stockpiled anti-personnel mines – ratified the Convention.

In addition, information was made available which indicated that one State Party, Cape Verde, which was presumed not to have held stockpiled anti-personnel mines, indeed did hold them and ensured their destruction in 2006.

Hence, the obligation to destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines remains relevant for eight States Parties: Belarus, Burundi, Ethiopia, Greece, Indonesia, Sudan, Turkey and Ukraine.

In terms of measuring progress, there are 145 States Parties which now no longer own or possess stockpiled anti-personnel mines and approximately 40 million stockpiled mines have been destroyed.

While stockpile destruction remains a success story and while the number of States Parties which must fulfill Article 4 obligations is small, we must not underestimate the significant challenges that remain in ensuring full implementation of Article 4 by all States Parties:

- First: Some States Parties are emerging from years of conflict and may not know the extent of stockpiled anti-personnel mines in areas under their jurisdiction. This implies that the task of accounting for the number and location of stockpiled mines may take longer in these countries than in others. These points to the need for such States Parties to act with urgency to ensure that they can fulfill their obligations on time.
- Second: For two States Parties the destruction of vast numbers of the PFM-1 type mine remains a challenge. While significant progress has been in overcoming technical challenges associated with the destruction of PFM-1 type mines, a challenge remains in arriving at a fruitful conclusion on matters concerning cooperation and assistance.
- Third: We witnessed in 2007 one State Party miss its deadline for destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines. We are pleased that this State Party has brought itself into compliance with the Article. However, we must work collectively to ensure that other States Parties do not miss their deadlines.

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- Fourth: While the Convention has not yet entered into force for [three] States which recently acceded to the Convention, we must do what we can to support these States in fulfilling their obligations concerning reporting on and destroying stockpiles.
- Fifth: The timely provision of initial and updated transparency reports continues to be an issue of concern. This challenge has dragged on too long in many cases and we hope solutions can be found.
- And sixth: We must not forget our need to report, in accordance with Article 7 and through informal means, discoveries of previously unknown stockpiles found after stockpile destruction deadlines have passed, and, the imperative to destroy these mines as a matter of urgent priority.

With respect to this particular challenge, in April Algeria and Estonia presented proposed amendments to the Article 7 reporting format.

We are pleased that a number of actors have expressed interest in developing means to facilitate better reporting on this matter such as through proposed amendments to Form G and B of the Article 7 reporting format.

The existing Article 7 reporting forms related to Article 4 do not fully correspond to situations when new stockpiles are discovered after deadlines have passed.

Our proposal, which is contained in document _____, is intended to facilitate better reporting on stockpiled anti-personnel mines discovered and destroyed after stockpile destruction deadlines have passed

The objective of this proposal is not, nor cannot be, to establish a new obligation. Rather, it aims to modify Forms B and G in order to better and more clearly reflect Action 15 of Nairobi Plan of Action.

The proposal adds new tables in Forms B and G on the exchange of information with regard to stocks discovered and destroyed after a stockpile destruction deadline has passed, as follows.

Mr. President: As the States Parties have been well consulted on our proposal, our hope is that it could be adopted at this meeting.

Thank you.

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