

Mine Ban Convention  
8MSP 18-22 November, Dead Sea, Jordan  
Norwegian statement on item 11 b Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines  
Ambassador Steffen Kongstad

Your Royal Highness, Mr. President,

The implementation of Article 4 on Stockpile Destruction has been one of the significant measures of the success of the Mine Ban Convention. An impressive and amazing number of stockpiled antipersonnel mines has been destroyed over the last 10 years. Tens of millions of mines will no longer be a danger to human beings.

The task of destroying stockpiles is in some cases considerable, not not enormous. Some types, like PFM-1, are more difficult than others, but not impossible. Article 4 of the Mine Ban Convention has a clear deadline for destruction but does not contain any extension clause as the Article 5 on mine clearance. The reason is that when the treaty text was drafted and adopted 10 years ago, no-one believed that any state would need more than four years to destroy their stockpiles.

Now it appears that there are States Parties not able to meet their deadlines. That is of course a very serious matter. When such situations occur, it is extremely important that they are dealt with in an orderly manner. Transparency and specific plans on how the matter will be solved will be essential. Article 7 is relevant in this context. If questions related to compliance with Article 4 are handled in an orderly and acceptable way, Article 8 of the convention may not be applied.

In addition, the proposal to change the reporting format submitted by Algeria and Estonia is supported by Norway.

Thank you, Mr. President.