

**Statement by the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction  
on the Status of Implementation of Article 4  
(Lithuania and Serbia)**

**25 November 2008**

At the close of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties in Jordan, 145 States Parties to the Convention no longer held stocks of anti-personnel mines, either because they never did or because they had completed their destruction programs. The obligation to destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines remained relevant for 8 States Parties. Since the 8MSP, 2 of 5 States Parties having deadlines in 2008 for complying with Article 4 stockpile destruction obligations – Burundi and Sudan – have indicated that they have fulfilled their obligations. 3 of these States Parties – Belarus, Greece and Turkey – have not complied with the stockpile destruction obligations by their deadlines. The Convention has entered into force for Kuwait and it has since indicated that it has stockpiled anti-personnel mines that it must destroy.

On this basis, there remain 7 States Parties which still have to destroy their stockpiles: Belarus, Ethiopia, Greece, Indonesia, Kuwait, Turkey and Ukraine. 5 more States Parties – Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Haiti and Palau – are overdue in providing an initial transparency report. It is important that those States Parties confirm or correct the record with respect to the assumption that stocks are not held.

According to the information provided by the States Parties, over 40 mln mines have been destroyed and approximately 14 mln remain yet to be destroyed.

The Dead Sea Progress Report highlighted that “while the number of States Parties which must fulfill Article 4 obligations is small, serious challenges remain.” These challenges are even more profound than they were a year ago - 3 States Parties, together possessing almost 8 mln of 14 mln anti-personnel mines, have failed to comply with their deadlines and remain non-compliant. Even though the main responsibility lies with the States Parties concerned, other States Parties and stakeholders, in particular donors, could and should assist in many ways and thus make all the difference. Both - States Parties giving and receiving assistance - should place an increased emphasis on the obligation to cooperate with a view of ensuring full and prompt implementation of agreed assistance programs.

The issue of non-compliance, especially its preventive aspect, has been constantly on the agenda of the Coordinating Committee and in the focus of the President H.R.H. Prince Mired's of Jordan activities.

We as Co-Chairs have given special attention to the challenges of those States Parties that must destroy vast quantities of PFM mines. PFM mines can't be destroyed by traditional technologies, for example open-detonation or burning, as that causes grave impact on environment. In April 2008 we convened the informal closed consultations with representatives of the States Parties concerned, interested donors, experts and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The exchange of information and views was intensive and useful. It shall be noted though that one participating delegation chose not to engage. The conclusions of the consultations are presented in a document ...

The participants were of the opinion that the Ottawa community might consider recommending that in the future in the case of projects related to upcoming obligation deadlines diversified funding mechanism would have to be put in place so that to ensure continuity of a project if for one or another reason problems occur in its course. More awareness and political support might stimulate speedier progress.

Similar consultations using the informal, closed format and the working method under Chatham House rules could and should be continued as an effective working tool available to the Ottawa Convention, in particular in the prevention of or addressing compliance related issues, in the future.

We have also endeavored in giving due attention to other cases of non-compliance and instances when efforts should be undertaken to prevent non-compliance in the future. In this regard, we have put forward a proposal – document ... - containing a set of recommendations which was distributed at the Standing Committees' meeting in June and informally discussed by the States Parties during the intersessional period. There is a general understanding that this proposal by the Co-Chairs could be embraced by the 9MSP.

While the challenges are great, we must not forget to mark our accomplishments. In this regard the Co-Chairs wish to congratulate Burundi and Sudan for having completed their destruction programs. The efforts of these States with the support of others, including the UNDP, which has provided significant assistance in both cases, brings us one step closer to our vision of a mine free world.

Thank you.