



**STATEMENT BY  
MS. ELİF ÇOMOĞLU ÜLGEN  
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT  
AT THE  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
DELIVERED  
AT THE NINTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES  
TO THE MINE BAN CONVENTION  
(AGENDA ITEM 12(B) )  
(GENEVA, 27 NOVEMBER 2008)**

Mr. President,

I would like to thank those State Parties, as well as the representatives of the ICRC and ICBL who have taken the floor to encourage us in our efforts in fulfilling our Article IV obligations.

We perfectly understand the concerns expressed by the representative of ICBL about the integrity of the Convention and regarding delays in fulfilling obligations arising from Article IV.

As I have stated yesterday, Mr. President, my country has been transparent since the outset in implementing our commitments. The delay which occurred in destroying the remaining parts of the stockpiles is due to technical reasons.

There was no waivering in our determination. The environmental factors have also played a role. We are keen to follow the relevant rules in this field. We will of course continue to report on a regular basis within the Ottawa process.

Furthermore, I will also like to repeat that the remaining parts of the stockpiles of which the fuses are all destroyed, are not useable. Therefore, in practice we do not have any landmine stockpiles at hand. In other words, there is no difference between the remaining stockpiles and obsolete ammunition.

We invite all stakeholders to see the wider picture. Since we joined the Convention, we have so far destroyed more than one million landmines. This is a significant figure.

Our record in implementing international arms control agreements has always been good. We will do our utmost to preserve our reputation.

I thank you, Mr. President.