

**Intersessional Meetings of the Mine Ban Treaty
Statement on stockpile destruction
20 May 2016**



Thank you Madame President,

Since the entry-into-force of the Mine Ban Treaty, 91 States Parties have officially declared completing destruction of their stockpiles, collectively destroying more than 50 million stockpiled antipersonnel mines. These are mines that will never be emplaced in the ground, will never claim another victim, and will never require clearance. This is a remarkable achievement that must never be forgotten.

However, continued work needs to be done to finish the job.

We welcome Poland's announcement that its remaining 16,957 antipersonnel mines have been irreversibly disassembled and transferred to a facility in Germany for destruction. Hopefully, when we meet again at the end of the year we will be able to count Poland among the States Parties that have finished the job and completed stockpile destruction.

Belarus appears to be on the path to destroy all mines that are not deemed to be in "unsafe condition," but this leaves uncertainty regarding the mines deemed to be in "unsafe condition." The authorities should start developing a plan and finding solutions, instead of waiting until November 2016.

Greece still possesses over 643,000 stockpiled antipersonnel mines, but it does not seem to have made much progress in developing a timetable for their destruction since we last met. We hope that at the meeting of States Parties, Greece will be able to report more concrete information as well as a timeline as to when they will finish the job.

In Ukraine, despite the present circumstances, the destruction of PFM-type mines resumed in December 2015 with nearly 15,000 mines destroyed in 2015. But, over 5.2 million PFM mines and 149,000 POM-2 antipersonnel mines remain to be destroyed.

Somalia needs to provide an update to States Parties, since in 2013 Somalia noted in its initial transparency report that it was making efforts to verify if it holds antipersonnel mines in its stockpiles. But, no transparency report has been submitted since then with an update on findings.

In its initial Article 7 transparency report, Oman declared a stockpile of 17,260 antipersonnel mines of Belgian, British, and German manufacture. It is obligated to destroy its stockpile of antipersonnel mines as soon as possible and no later than 1 February 2019, but no transparency report has been submitted since the initial report with an update on findings.

We expect that more concrete information will be announced by states at the 15MSP on their progress in finishing the job and for Belarus, Greece, and Ukraine to come into compliance with Article 4. We note that neither Greece nor Ukraine were able to articulate at this meeting an end date for their stockpile destruction programs.