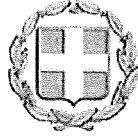


Item 6 (B)



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE & THE OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
GENEVA

**Intersessional Meetings of the States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty
Geneva, 22-24 May 2019
Statement on Stockpile Destruction**

Mr President,

Since it is the first time that we take the floor under your presidency, allow me, from the outset, to congratulate you on the assumption of your duties and your ongoing efforts and initiatives to lead the 4th Review Conference of the States Parties of the Mine Ban Treaty to a positive outcome. I would like to assure you of our full support in this endeavor.

Mr President, Dear Colleagues,

Since our last update during the 17th Meeting of States Parties last November, the Hellenic Defence Systems (HDS) completed the demilitarization of **147.172** APLMs reducing, thus, the current stockpile to **343.413**. Moreover, in the ongoing demilitarization process **33.526** APLMs have most recently been transferred and stored at the facilities of the HDS in Lavrio plant and it is anticipated that they will be destroyed in the upcoming weeks, notwithstanding of course any future unforeseen circumstances beyond our control.

With regard to the APLMs retained in accordance with the provisions of Article 3, their intended use is purely for training purposes in the detection and mine clearance. In this regard, I would like to mention that the Hellenic Army General Staff has destroyed **1.625** mines from the initial quantity of **7.224** that was declared in 2008, reducing the current stockpile to **5.599** APLMs.

Last but not least, I would like to reiterate that since accession to the Ottawa Convention, the Hellenic Republic has spared no efforts in order to comply with all its obligations. With regard to our obligations emanating from Article 4 of the Convention, we have always addressed the complications which have arisen, with the utmost transparency and sincerity.

Thank you