

Notes for ICRC intervention

Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction Monday 20 June 2011

Thank you Madame Co-Chair,

We would like to thank the four States that provided us with precise and detailed updates today on the status of their plans to destroy their remaining stocks of AP mines and to rectify their inability to meet their article 4 deadlines.

The ICRC is glad to hear about the further progress made by **Turkey** with regards to the destruction of the remaining 22 716 ADAM mines. It is indeed excellent news that these stocks should be destroyed by the end of August by a private company in Germany. We commend Turkey for its perseverance and look very much forward to hearing the news of the completion of destruction of all Turkish anti-personnel mines at the 11th meeting of States Parties in November.

With regard to **Belarus**, we are very pleased to hear details about the administrative and technical steps that are underway. We understand from the contract awarded to the Spanish company selected by the European Commission that it has 28 months from December 2010 to complete the destruction of PFM-1 mines of Belarus. We hope that this company will be able to start the actual destruction of the stockpile of 3 million PFM mines as soon as possible. We would like to commend the persistence of Belarus officials and of the European Union and its Commission in ensuring the soon-to-be successful conclusion of efforts which have gone on for many years.

The ICRC would like to thank **Greece** for the successful efforts it undertook to find the 480 mines that were reported missing last year. We commend Greece for having re-checked all its warehouses and hope that all stockpiles have now been identified. We also would like to thank Greece for the detailed update provided on its plans to ensure the destruction of the remaining 60% of stockpiles. We understand that Greece is in the process of negotiating a new contract with the Greek EAS company and that this company offers to destroy the remaining stockpile in 22 months. However, this time frame seems exceptionally long, nearly half of its original obligation for stockpile destruction. If we compare these plans to the Byelorussian context, the Spanish company chosen has only 28 months to carry out the destruction of over 3 million mines. The Greek stock remaining is only of a little less than 1 million AP mines, or 1/3 of the amount being destroyed in Belarus in a similar time frame. At last year's Standing Committee meeting, Greece announced that it was going to choose another company which will only have 6 months to destroy the remaining stockpiles. We understand that this avenue is no longer possible but we hope that a shorter deadline can be negotiated by Greece. We urge increased efforts at the political level in order to rectify this situation and to ensure the destruction of remaining AP mines in the shortest possible time frame.

We would like to thank the **Ukraine** for its very detailed presentation today and commend Ukraine for having looked at different means and ways to destroy its stockpiles of PFM mines. We are delighted to hear that both the upgrade of the Pavlograd factory and another project conducted by a Byelorussian company will allow, if funding is secured, to be destroyed by 2014. We look forward to further update by the Ukraine and the good news that large scale destruction has started. We commend the active engagement of Norway which has greatly help to break the deadlock of recent years.