

**STATEMENT BY THE TURKISH DELEGATION
STANDING COMMITTEE ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION
20 JUNE 2011**

(PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)

Distinguished Co-Chairs

I congratulate you on your assumption of the Co-Chairmanship. I can assure you of my Delegation's full confidence and support.

At this session, the Turkish Delegation should like to provide a brief update on the implementation of Article 4.

I see no need to elaborate on the importance that my country attaches to the spirit and the effective implementation of the Mine Ban Convention. Our firm commitment and transparent approach concerning implementation of our obligations stemming from the provisions of the Convention are well known to States Parties.

As explained in many occasions in the past, Turkish Armed Forces indeed had stopped the use of anti-personnel land mines on 26 January 1998, 8 years before accession to the Convention in 2004.

At present, Turkey destroyed % 99.23 of its stockpile and ensured the destruction of the remaining % 0.77.

As of mid-October 2010, with the exception of 22,716 "Area Denial Antipersonnel Mines" (ADAM), all of the stockpiled landmines are completely destroyed in the Turkish Munitions Disposal Facility. Construction of this facility and the destruction process was realized with national sources only. The number of mines destroyed is close to three million (*2,938,060 of four different types*).

As the Munitions Disposal Facility is not capable of handling the above-mentioned ADAM-type mines (which contain depleted uranium), on 16 November 2011, a contract was signed for their destruction, between NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) on behalf of the Turkish Government, and a company in Germany (Spree-werke Lübben GMBH).

A total number of 631 ADAM-type mines (each containing 36 sub-munitions, which makes the total quantity 22,716) left Turkish territory and were shipped to Germany on 17 February 2011. Accordingly, destruction of these Turkish mines began in Germany on 23 March 2011. In the contract, the deadline for the completion of destruction is 31 August 2011.

As such, Turkey ensured compliance regarding Article IV of the Convention.

I thank you co-chairs.