

**Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction
Geneva, 20 June 2011**

Intervention on behalf of the UN Mine Action Team

Madame Co-Chair¹,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to deliver the following statement on behalf of the United Nations Mine Action Team (UNMAT), comprising 14 UN partners involved in mine action².

Destruction of stockpiles of antipersonnel mines remains a key obligation of the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and an indispensable measure to achieve a mine-free world. While many countries that have not yet acceded to the APMBC have not used antipersonnel mines and/or have committed not to transfer through a unilateral moratorium, many still keep important arsenals of these weapons, and may be prone to use them during armed conflict, as has been the case recently in Middle East. Stockpiles of mines could also fall in the hands of non-state armed actors and be then used; a situation that we have also witnessed recently.

The UNMAT was glad to hear that the expected date for the destruction of the remaining Turkish stockpiles of antipersonnel mines, now physically in Germany, is 31st August 2011.

We hope agreements in course with the EC and other donors will allow envisaging an early date for the destruction of the remaining PFM-1 stockpiles in Belarus and Ukraine.

Thank you.

¹ Co-Chairs: Lithuania and Philippines

² UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (ODA), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women (OSAGI), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Bank.