



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

**Standing Committee on
Stockpile Destruction
(Co-Chairs: Germany and Romania)
Geneva, 21 May 2012**

**Intervention
Delivered by Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Director, UNMAS
on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA)**

Madame/Mister Co-Chair,

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA), comprising 14 UN partners involved in mine action.

The United Nations considers the destruction of stockpiles of antipersonnel mines as an important means of securing our common ultimate objective of a world free of these weapons.

We welcome the updates by these three state parties¹ that have missed to comply with Article 4 obligations on progress in destroying their stockpiles of antipersonnel mines. We also look forward to hearing the plans by Finland, one the newest States Parties, to achieve the destruction of their stockpiles within the four-year deadline established by the Convention; we also look forward to hearing from the transitional government of Somalia, information about the stockpiles under their control.

With report to the situation faced in South Sudan, I would like to reiterate the readiness of the UNMAS to assist, since the UNMAS team is already in-country.

On the antipersonnel mines discovered in Guinea Bissau during an assessment visit last year, the United Nations, along with partners, stand ready to assist in the destruction of these last remaining stockpiles at the earlier possible date. We hope that this will occur in advance of the Twelve Meeting of States Parties.

We encourage those non-State Parties that have submitted voluntary Article 7 reports in the past² to consider the destruction of their arsenals of antipersonnel mines as a step forward towards the accession to the Convention.

Thank you.

¹ Belarus, Greece and Ukraine.

² Azerbaijan, Laos, Mongolia, Morocco, Poland and Sri Lanka.