



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

**Standing Committee on
Stockpile Destruction
(Co-Chairs: Nigeria and Norway)
Geneva, 27 May 2013**

**Intervention
Delivered by UNMAS
on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA)**

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 objective of a world free of these weapons.

The United Nations welcomes the updates by the three State Parties that have missed to comply with Article 4 obligations on progress in destroying their stockpiles of antipersonnel mines. We welcome also the announcement by Finland that all its stockpiles of antipersonnel mines will be destroyed by 2015.

With reports of the situation in South Sudan, I would like to reiterate the readiness of the UNMAS to assist. UNMAS, and the French Army, also assisted Cote d'Ivoire in the destruction of 1526 antipersonnel mines during the reporting period.

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

Thank you.