

**STATEMENT BY THE TURKISH DELEGATION  
DURING THE MEETING OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION**

**24 April 2007**

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

This is not how I wished for the day to start. However, there clearly is a problem. I, therefore, feel compelled to take the floor. Let me state in the very beginning that Turkey is not the party that is importing this problem into this process. I cannot accept any responsibility of my country in that regard, as Turkey is not responsible for abusing this meeting.

The party responsible for abusing this forum is the one that lets itself be exploited by a terrorist organization. This is why the focus of this forum has unfortunately shifted.

We have already stated in the Sixth meeting of States Parties last year, as well as on various occasions that Turkey recognizes the useful role played by non-governmental organizations (NGO) for attaining the objectives of the Ottawa Convention, as long as they are not instrumentalised for other purposes.

We have also warned the “Geneva Call” and the donors of this NGO that, trying to remove landmines is one thing, taking a terrorist organization, which has a different agenda, as a counterpart and concluding agreements with terrorists is entirely a different thing.

The clear evidence of the fact that the “Geneva Call” is being exploited is terrorist infiltrations from outside Turkey. The terrorist organization, when and if it finds the opportunity, continues to emplace several types of mines and other types of explosives to attack Turkish security forces. These attacks are also killing civilians.

This casts shadow over the credibility of the NGOs in general, and the Ottawa Process.

Should this NGO continue to be exploited by the terrorist organizations, such as the PKK/KADEK/KONGRA-GEL terrorist organisation, we will continue to report this fact at Ottawa process meetings and to our partners. The solution to this problem is that the said NGO ought to disassociate and distance itself from the terrorist organization.

The efforts of those who are cooperating with terrorists can in no way be considered as humanitarian. Terrorism is a crime against humanity, and combating this menace is as sacred as trying to remove landmines deployed throughout the world. Therefore, international efforts directed at serving the Ottawa process should in no way be instrumentalized by terrorist organizations.

I do not want to spend more of our time and energy with this incongruence.

This NGO and its donors should draw a clear line between activities serving the interests of humanity and giving publicity and indirect credence to terrorist organizations.

To carry on with the stockpile destruction my delegation had originally planned to make and with your permission, I give the microphone to our expert from Capital.

Co-Chairs,

My delegation would like to present a short update on stockpile destruction.

Turkey has the obligation to destroy nearly 3 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines by 2008. These mines are of different types and series, as reported in our Article 7 reports.

Our delegation had stated during the Seventh Meeting of States Parties that the construction of the “Munitions De-militarization Facility” (TUR-MDF), in accordance with the Agreement between Turkey and the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA), was in the final stage completion. We would like to inform delegates that this facility will become operational on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July this year and will run at full capacity as of that date.

At present, stockpile destruction continues by open-air detonation method. In 2006, 94’111 more mines were destroyed with this method. The number of stockpiled anti-personnel landmines currently stands at 2’886’818. Concerning the remaining mines, plans are underway for their transfer from their different locations to the De-militarization facility in Kırıkkale-Yahşihan. In 2006, 94’111 mines were removed from the transfer list to the De-Militarization facility and destroyed on-site.

To conclude, we are confident that we will be able to fulfil our obligation by destroying stockpiled APMs by 2008.

I thank you.