

Intersessional Standing Committee Meetings on Ottawa Convention,

April 23-27 2007, Geneva

Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

STATEMENT

The Republic of Serbia has the honour to inform that as of May 16th of this year all of the 1.4 million stockpiled antipersonnel landmine will be destroyed thereby and that, accordingly, it will fulfil all its obligations under Article 4 of the Ottawa Convention

At this occasion, we wish to express our sincere gratitude and recognition to all countries and international organizations which greatly contributed, through their political support, as well as through considerable financial contributions and technical assistance, to achieving this respectable goal. Although many countries have assisted us significantly in this endeavour, on this solemn occasion, we would like to pay a particular tribute to those which were on the forefronts, such as the Lead Nations of the South East Europe Trust Fund Project for Antipersonnel Landmine Demilitarization in Serbia and Montenegro - Austria and Canada, as well as to Norway, Luxembourg and many other countries.

Allow me once again to thank you all most sincerely for your contribution to this project, which brings us one important step closer to the long-term goal of a Balkan area free of all antipersonnel mines.