



Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer
of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

STANDING COMMITTEE ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION

CO-CHAIRS' NOTES TO MEETING PARTICIPANTS

6 February 2003

An overview of the status of stockpile destruction since the 4MSP:

The agenda for the February meeting builds upon the past efforts undertaken by the Standing Committee. The Co-Chairs will make an introduction on progress made in stockpile destruction since the 4MSP as well as on the relevant developments in the field of co-operation. A global overview of stockpile destruction will be presented by the ICBL. The discussion will be focused on the fast approaching **March 2003 deadlines** for completing stockpile destruction for several States Parties. Delegations are encouraged to present their individual progress in this field. Given the approaching deadlines some assistance may be needed for those countries that may have difficulty meeting their deadlines and beyond. The Co-Chairs strongly encourage States Parties to present difficulties that they face, and donor countries and non-governmental / international organizations to present on how they could assist States Parties to meet specific needs in the field of stockpile destruction.

Update on implementation:

Presentations will be made by States Parties that completed stockpile destruction since 4MSP. All State Parties are encouraged to participate in the discussion and provide information on the progress of national stockpile destruction and future plans. Presentations by State Parties confronted with difficulties in meeting their 2003 deadlines are strongly encouraged. Practical details on needs and difficulties, as well as possible solutions would very much be welcomed by the Co-Chairs and the donor community.

Update on assistance and co-operation:

The Co-Chairs will provide a presentation of efforts made on the assistance and co-operation with respect to State Parties having destruction deadlines in 2003. In this context, the action taken by the Contact Group and other informal mechanisms will be provided. All States Parties and participating organizations are encouraged to participate in the dialogue aimed at enhancing the response to the goals provided by the Convention in matter pertaining to stockpile destruction and national reports.

Matters of a thematic nature related to stockpile destruction – Technical and organization aspects relating to implementation:

The Co-Chairs envisage to stimulate presentations and discussions on topics related to industrial scale stockpile destruction and other practical manners of organizing the technologic process, as well as recycling of mine components and environmental aspects. Having in mind that some of the States Parties with deadlines in 2003 do possess PFM mines, a review of available methods of destruction will be provided by specialist individuals, groups and organizations.

Issues related to post-destruction activities:

In view of the 2004 Review Conference the Co-Chairs intend to provide ground for an initial reflection on use and management of retained stockpiles, as post stockpile destruction activities remain important for linking training on mines with the fundamental goal of mine clearance. Questions like “How to address the depletion rate and replacements of the retained stockpile?”, “Are alternative technologies available and how much added advantages are provided by simulators?” or “How to establish a base of available knowledge and expertise on mines is relevant for training of future humanitarian deminers?” will provide a starting point for the debate.