



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

INTERSESSIONAL PROGRAMME 2002-2003

STANDING COMMITTEE ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION

Report of the 6 February 2003 Meeting

I. Introduction

Pursuant to the decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention (4MSP), the meeting of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction was convened by its Co-Chairs, Mr. René Haug of Switzerland and Mr. Radu Horumba of Romania, with the support of its Co-Rapporteurs, Mr. Luigi Scotto of Italy and Mr. Carlos J. Arroyave of Guatemala. The meeting was held in Geneva with the generous support of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

In accordance with the President's Action Programme of the 4MSP, the first meeting of the Standing Committee focused its attention on: countries with a deadline for stockpile destruction in 2003; bilateral and regional assistance and co-operation in the area of stockpile destruction; and technical aspects relating to the implementation of stockpile destruction obligations.

II. Overview of Stockpile Destruction Efforts:

The ICBL and Landmine Monitor presented the issue of stockpile destruction as a success story and gave an update of the most recent efforts on the matter. The figures presented by the ICBL are as follows: 39 States Parties have completed their stockpile destruction, among them and most recently, Chad, Croatia, Japan, Moldova, the Netherlands, Nicaragua and Italy; 41 countries have officially declared absence of stocks; 15 States Parties are in the process of completing their stockpile destruction (9 of them have deadlines this year); 10 States Parties have not yet begun their stockpile destruction programs (3 of them have deadlines in 2003); 19 have not submitted their Article 7 report and one country has not provided sufficient updated information.

UNMAS illustrated in detail its website www.unmas.org, which provides useful information on stockpile destruction in various countries.

III. First Group: States Parties which recently completed their stockpile destruction

Croatia and Italy made presentations outlining their experiences in completing their stockpile destruction since the end of the 4MSP. The Netherlands, Chad and Moldova also declared that they have completed their stockpile destruction.

- Croatia stated that its stockpile destruction was done in three phases by dismantling and destroying AP mines including fuses. Each exercise of stockpile destruction was

documented after a controlled process. Under the Article 3, Croatia decided to retain 7,000 pieces of AP mines for testing purposes.

- Italy declared in its presentation that it had enacted legislation banning AP mines, which included two decrees on stockpile destruction. Italy has completed its AP mine stockpile destruction obligation (7,112,881 mines) one-year before its deadline.
- The Netherlands announced that its last stockpiles were destroyed in December 2002.
- It was reported that Moldova's stockpile was completely destroyed at the end of 2002 (12,121 mines) and that it is waiting for the withdrawal of AP mine stocks under the control of foreign military forces in some areas of its territory.
- Chad presented information on the completion of its stockpile destruction obligation on February 6, 2003. The total number of destroyed mines rose to 3,200 mines due to the recent discovery of abandoned stockpiles in areas previously affected by armed conflicts. Chad has decided that it will not retain mines for training purposes.

IV. Second Group: States Parties with a deadline on March 1, 2003:

Djibouti, Japan, Mozambique and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia reaffirmed their willingness to respect their obligations and destroy their stockpiles before the deadline of March 1, 2003.

- Djibouti informed that it will destroy 1,188 mines by end of February 2003, with assistance from France; 2996 mines will be retained for training purposes.
- Japan informed that the completion of its stockpile destruction obligation is planned for February 8, 2003; Prime Minister Junikiro Koizumi will attend the final destruction ceremony.
- Mozambique informed that its stockpile destruction process would be finalised during the week of February 24, 2003 with 16,500 mines planned to be destroyed in two separate locations in northern and southern Mozambique.
- The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia informed that the first phase of the stockpile destruction was completed in October 2002. The final destruction phase is planned for February 15, 2003, when the remaining 16,071 mines will be disposed; 4,000 mines will be retained for training purposes.

V. Third Group: Other States Parties with deadlines in 2003:

Slovenia, Jordan, Thailand, and Portugal declared that they will complete the destruction of their stockpiles before the next intersessional meeting.

- Slovenia presented a list of 5 different types of AP mines, totalling 4,000 units, that it will keep for training and technological purposes. Its final remaining 200 AP mines will be destroyed in March 2003.

- Thailand stated that 4,970 AP mines are to be retained for training and research purposes. It has a remaining 51,480 AP mines to be destroyed by April 2003.
- Portugal will retain 1,115 AP mines for training purposes. Portugal began destroying its stockpiles at the beginning of 2002 in accordance with safety and environmental standards. It is expected to finish the process on 2003.

VI. Fourth Group: States Parties that may hold stocks and have not yet provided updated information:

- Efforts continue to obtain information from Turkmenistan, which has a deadline of March 1, 2003, on its progress in the area of stockpile destruction. Guinea, whose deadline is April 1, 2003, is in a similar situation.
- Uganda, which has a deadline of August 2003, stated that the destruction of its stockpile has not yet started and that it might need foreign assistance to complete the destruction in time.
- Venezuela, due to a lack of equipment, has not started stockpile destruction but initial discussions have taken place with France and Canada for technical and financial assistance.

VII. Fifth Group: States Parties that are not likely to hold stocks, but have never submitted a report:

There are a number of countries with 2003 destruction deadlines which have not yet submitted an initial Article 7 report. Efforts continue to encourage these countries to submit their reports and to provide the necessary information. The Organisation of American States (OAS) offered to encourage States Parties from the Americas to submit their reports.

Malawi stated that it has no AP mine stockpile.

VIII. Sixth Group: States Parties with deadlines beyond 2003:

Romania, Chile, Argentina, Tunisia, Congo Brazzaville, Guinea Bissau, Zambia, Kenya and Tanzania, which have deadlines in 2004 or beyond, gave the following information on the status of their stockpile destruction efforts:

- Argentina stated that during 2003 it foresees the destruction of its remaining AP mine stockpile.
- Chile stated that it has decided to reduce the level of its retained stockpile to 18,666 mines.
- Romania provided information on the completion of destruction of MAI-2, MAI-6 and MAI-68 type mines; the process of destruction is continuing and as of February 2003, 716,148 mines had been destroyed. The stockpile destruction process is due to be finalised on March 2004, more than one year ahead of its deadline.
- Tajikistan and Bangladesh have requested financial support to start and complete their processes on time. Tajikistan reported its national stockpile is 3,029 mines, while there are

about 18,200 mines in foreign stockpiles on its national territory. Bangladesh also stated its intention to review the level of its retained stockpile.

- Congo Brazzaville stated that it would complete the destruction of its 5090 mines. Only 375 will be retained for training purposes
- Tanzania reported it would commence soon the process of stockpile destruction and it will be disposed in four phases; about 10,000 mines are to be destroyed on March 27, 2003.
- Kenya stated that the decision to commence the stockpile destruction had been taken in March 2003. It also stated that it does not possess Claymore munitions in its arsenal
- Tunisia stated that it would complete stockpile destruction by September 2004
- Zambia stated that it intended to reduce the number of retained mines. A number of these will be destroyed during a “cleared land” hand-over ceremony in March 2003.

IX. Assistance and Co-operation in the area of stockpile destruction

- Canada presented its assistance efforts in the area of stockpile destruction.
- The NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency, NAMSA, gave a presentation on the different programs and recalled the establishment in 2000 of a PfP Trust Fund Policy to provide mechanism to assist Partnership for Peace States to comply with the Ottawa Convention in the area of stockpile destruction. NAMSA, in past as in current programmes, has acted as an executing agency, and resources for implementing national demining processes come from donations.
- The European Commission (EC) presented an overview of the European Union’s efforts in the area of stockpile destruction.
- With respect to the PFM-1 landmines, the EC, NAMSA and UNDP have provided an update on their efforts in this area. The delegate from the UNDP said that stockpile destruction is an important issue of each integrated mine action programme. The UNDP assists governments in destroying stockpiles and provides technical advisors and programme management.
- The GICHD made technical presentation on PFM mines. The GICHD indicated that it will assist States Parties in preparing and studying their national stockpile destruction processes.
- Italy made a technical presentation on its industrial destruction process. Italy noted its willingness to assist other countries in AP mine destruction processes. Since it has equipment for mine destruction as well as trained personal.

X. State not Parties

State not Parties also intervened with information on their stockpile destruction and on their national contributions to activities to ban landmines:

- Ukraine and Belarus both stated that they have specific concerns regarding the destruction of their PFM stockpiles.
- Serbia and Montenegro made a presentation on its destruction programme and provided information on its preparations to become a member of the Convention. It expressed the need for financial support and international logistical assistance in order to achieve completion in two months, from entry into force of the Convention, of the destruction of the 1,320,621 mines in the national stockpile.

XI. Assessment of Needs that Remain

To stimulate discussion on post destruction measures during the May meeting, the Co-Chairs distributed a “food for thought” paper, which can be found on the Internet at www.gichd.ch. The Co-chairs requested that participants provide, before April 6, 2003, their reactions to the paper.

Co-Chairs
Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction