

**Intervention of the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of Ukraine Mr. Volodymyr Dziub at the SCE on APLs stockpiles  
destruction**

(Geneva, February 6, 2003)

Distinguished Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs!  
Ladies and Gentlemen!

Ukraine as a signatory-state of the Ottawa Convention banning the APLs highly appreciates the fact that the issue of APLs stockpile destruction is given serious consideration during the intersessional work.

SCE on stockpile destruction has a noble goal to promote the efforts aimed to exclude slightest temptation and possibility to resume the use of the APLs in constantly changing international and regional security environment. All efforts in this realm of the global anti-mine action are directed to ensure the irreversibility of the state-parties compliance with their obligation not to use APLs. Elimination of stockpiles for obvious reasons also means that the country in question becomes automatically in compliance with Convention provision prohibiting APLs export. Furthermore, destruction process if managed appropriately and effectively may demonstrate impressive results, which besides would not be so cost-consuming in comparison with other directions of anti-mine action. Expeditious destruction of the large APLs stockpile may be regarded as a confidence building measure in the regional security context and initiate the domino effect, which would increase ultimately the number of states-parties to the Ottawa Convention.

Ukraine as country with the economy in transition experiences large-scale social-economic hardships, which resulted in budgetary constraints. At the same time country inherited from the former Soviet Union a large stockpile of APLs. In this context we accepted the proposition of the Canadian government to provide assistance for the destruction of our APLs stockpiles. As a manifestation of its support to the goals and principles of the Mine Ban Treaty Ukraine expressed its readiness to sign the Ottawa Convention. This agreement between Government of Ukraine and Government of Canada has taken the form of relevant Memorandum of Understanding signed on 28 January 1999. Ukraine has signed the Convention on 24 February 1999.

Further step codifying bilateral cooperation between Canada and Ukraine in APLs destruction was a Framework Arrangement between the Government of Canada and Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on APLs destruction in Ukraine, signed on 26 March 2001. So far this is the only legal background for Ukraine to carry out the APLs destruction process

and for Canada "to provide financial assistance - to ensure progress in the Parties mutual goal of destroying APLs in Ukraine".

We are satisfied that this Framework Arrangement enabled to start implementation of the PMN-destruction project in Ukraine. Both Ukraine and Canada have invited NAMSA to be the manager of this project. The industrial line for PMN destruction was opened in July 2002 by NATO Secretary-General Lord Robertson and Mr. Victor Yanukovich - Head of Donetsk Regional Administration, now Prime-Minister of the Ukrainian Government. Every day 1100 PMN mines are being destroyed and it is expected that before Fifth annual meeting of the States-Parties to the Ottawa Convention all PMN stockpiled in Ukraine will be eliminated.

Although the PMN project is a positive achievement in our common efforts it should be kept in memory that PMN makes up only 7% of the whole Ukrainian APLs stockpiles. The major challenge remains the PFM destruction. The project document "Preparatory Assistance to Ukraine: PFM Landmines Stockpile Destruction" is supposed to play an important role in this context. At the same time Ukrainian side is interested in the early start of the PFM-destruction process. From Ukrainian perspective discontinuity in APLs destruction in Ukraine would be undesirable for our fruitful cooperation with Canada and UNDP as a manager of PFM destruction project in Ukraine.

At the same time Ukraine is not seeking unilateral advantages for the PFM-destruction project to be carried out on its territory. This project should not necessary be very expensive and speedy one, requiring large short-time contributions from donor-states.

Thank you.