



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

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION**

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**Co-Chairs' suggestions on ways to prepare for the 12 February Standing Committee meeting\***

**Introduction**

At least 115 States Parties now no longer have anti-personnel mine stockpiles and together the States Parties have destroyed almost 31 million mines. However, important challenges remain. Twenty-four States Parties are in the process of destroying their stockpiled anti-personnel mines and some of the newest States Parties may need assistance in destroying large stockpiles. In addition, several States Parties which are presumed not to hold stockpiles have not yet provided an Article 7 transparency report to confirm that no stockpiles are in their possession.

As stated in the President's Action Programme, it is in the interest of the health of the Convention that we place a high priority on meeting our deadlines for stockpile destruction. During the 2003-2004 Intersessional Work Programme, the Co-Chairs will provide a forum for sharing information on efforts to implement Article 4 of the Convention and on assisting States Parties in doing so.

**Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of implementation**

While in 2003 it appears that all States Parties with stockpile destruction deadlines fulfilled their Article 4 obligations, there is a need to keep a close eye to uphold the flawless compliance record. Flawless compliance in 2004 will strengthen the Convention further and provide an important input to the First Review Conference. With these factors in mind, the Co-Chairs will give increased attention to those States Parties with stockpile destruction deadlines between the end of the 5MSP and the First Review Conference, as well as to those which have deadlines in 2005 and beyond.

*Suggestions on ways to prepare:*

- *States Parties with stockpile destruction deadlines in the period leading up to the First Review Conference may wish to prepare presentations on their destruction programmes, advances made, challenges and needs that remain, and other relevant information.*
- *States Parties with deadlines in 2005 and beyond may also wish to make presentations.*
- *Presentations, which can be delivered orally with or without the aide of audio-visual methods, should not exceed 8-10 minutes. To assist the Co-Chairs in preparing for this agenda item, please contact the Co-Chairs or the Implementation Support Unit (isu@gichd.ch) if you intend on making a presentation.*

**Updates regarding assistance and cooperation**

In 2002-2003, the Co-Chairs recommended that States Parties and international and regional organizations continue to provide assistance in the area of stockpile destruction. The Co-Chairs in 2004 would like to follow-up on this recommendation, in part by encouraging States Parties and relevant organizations to think creatively about the range of cooperation opportunities that may exist. In addition, the Co-Chairs will highlight a case study in cooperation – that of the work of the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency in Europe.

*Suggestions on ways to prepare:*

- *States Parties may wish to consider the full range of opportunities to request and provide assistance for stockpile destruction and prepare updates for the Standing Committee.*

## **Matters of a thematic nature related to stockpile destruction**

In 2002-2003, in their “food-for-thought” paper, the Co-Chairs raised the issue of a possible discovery of formerly unknown stockpiles. Although the importance of this issue was acknowledged, discussions on this matter were inconclusive. On 11 February, the Co-Chairs would appreciate any views on best practices in destroying stockpiled mines discovered after the end of destruction deadlines.

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\* This document merely contains suggestions regarding ways to maximize opportunities for participation presented by the Standing Committee. It is well understood that all Standing Committee participants – States Parties, States not parties and organizations – are free to intervene on any agenda item in any manner they wish.