

Intervention of Mr. Volodymyr DZIUB,
Head of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Division,
MFA of Ukraine
at the Standing Committee on APLs Stockpile Destruction
(12 February, 2004)

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen!

Ukraine shares the goals of the Mine Ban Treaty and is committed to implement its important provisions, namely the destruction of the anti-personnel landmines stockpiles. On 24 February 1999 Ukraine signed this treaty and since that time puts every effort to respect it properly.

Ukraine commends several ratifications and accessions to the MBT, which have taken place since the Fifth meeting of states parties in Bangkok.

Main problem which has to be solved by Ukraine pursuant to the obligations under the MBT is APLs destruction. Ukraine has almost 6 mln. mines of PFM-types in stockpiles and as such is the fourth largest stockpile holder in the world after Russia, China and USA.

In implementing the APLs destruction Ukraine relies on assistance and support of the international donors. Number of relevant international documents have been concluded to this end. Nevertheless since the completion in May 2003 of PMN stockpile destruction no new mine has been eliminated in Ukraine.

Despite the fact that for the time being Ukraine is not a party to the MBT, it is quite obvious that our efforts to get rid of APLs stocks is closely related to our intention to be a state party in future. For this purpose MFA of Ukraine has prepared draft law on ratification of the MBT, which undergoes formal approval from ministries and agencies, which participated in previous intergovernmental discussions on "ratification formula" for Ukraine. One of the provisions of this draft law states that the law on ratification enters into force upon completion of destruction of remaining PFM stockpiles in Ukraine. It is expected that such law may be adopted before Second session of Standing Committee in June 2004.