



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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**Meeting Report  
January 31, 2002**

Co-Chairs: Vice Skracic, Croatia  
Peter Truswell, Australia

Co-Rapporteurs: Rene Haug, Switzerland  
Radu Horumba, Romania

**Morning Session**

**Introduction**

In accordance with the President's Action Programme of the Third Meeting of States Parties (3MSP) the first intersessional meeting of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction (SCSD) focused its attention on:

- global and regional stockpile destruction efforts,
- the exchange of information on the ability of states to meet their destruction deadlines, and
- various means and measures to assist and support States Parties in the efficient, timely and environmentally friendly destruction of their APM stockpiles.

The Co-Chairs stressed that deadlines for stockpile destruction were fast approaching for a number of countries with the first deadlines in March 2003.

**Overview of Stockpile Destruction Efforts**

Stephen Goose from the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and Landmine Monitor gave an overview of global stockpile destruction efforts based on a fact sheet ([www.icbl.org/sc](http://www.icbl.org/sc)) prepared by Landmine Monitor. He stressed that meeting the four-year destruction deadline is an important legal obligation for States Parties. He presented the following assessment: 31 States Parties have completed their stockpile destruction, 22 States Parties are in the process of completing their stockpile destruction and 16 States Parties, most of which have not submitted Article 7 reports, have not yet begun their stockpile destruction programs. He emphasized that some States Parties with deadlines in 2003 are a long way from meeting that deadline.

**Presentations of Stockpile Destruction by Romania, Peru, and Ecuador**

Captain Radu Stanicel gave a status report of the stockpile destruction by Romania, which plans to complete the destruction of its 1,076,629 anti-personnel (AP) mines in 2004, one year ahead of its 2005 destruction deadline. Mr. Manuel Talavera gave an overview of stockpile destruction in Peru. He announced that Peru has destroyed its stockpile of 325,000 AP mines and has decided to retain 4000 AP mines for training purposes. Finally Mr. Rafael Parades made a presentation on the stockpile destruction program of Ecuador. With the assistance of the Organization of American States (OAS), donor countries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) Ecuador completed its phased stockpile destruction before the 3MSP in September 2001 in accordance with the Managua Challenge. Ecuador will retain 4,000 AP mines for training purposes.

## **National Statements on Stockpile Destruction**

After these presentations the following statements with respect to national stockpile destruction were made:

Slovenia: Slovenia initially had 171,000 AP mines. It had destroyed more than 90,000 by January 2002. The remaining stockpile will be destroyed before the March 2003 deadline.

Italy: Stockpile destruction is continuing. So far Italy has destroyed 6.6 Million AP mines. It hopes to destroy its remaining 500,000 AP mines by the time of the Fourth Meeting of States Parties, well ahead of the of the 2003 deadline. Italy has acquired particular expertise in the destruction of AP mines and is willing to share this with other countries.

Yemen: By January 2002 Yemen will have destroyed 85% of its stockpile. Yemen hopes that Canada and other countries will be able to assist it in the destruction of the remaining 15% of its AP mines which it plans to destroy in 2002 well ahead of its 2003 deadline.

Uganda: Uganda started its stockpile destruction in November 2000. It aims to meet its August 2003 deadline.

Chad: Chad submitted its Article 7 Report in November 2001. It has already destroyed 5,455 mines, but does not yet have a clear assessment of the total number of APM stocks in Chad. Chad has approached Canada with a request to assist in carrying out a national survey. It hopes to finish its destruction and report the exact number of the remaining AP mines in its next Article 7 Report. Chad will do everything possible to meet its 2003 deadline.

Brazil: Brazil started its stockpile destruction process in December 2001. It plans to complete its stockpile destruction by July 2002, over one year before the October 2003 deadline.

Croatia: Croatia completed the first phase of its stockpile destruction program during 2000. It will complete the next two phases by October 2002, well before the 2003 deadline. In the first phase Croatia destroyed 67,734 APM, in the remaining 2 phases it will destroy an additional 125,000 AP mines. Croatia intends to retain 7,000 AP mines for training purposes. Croatia has also a "Farewell to Arms" initiative in place to collect small arms and light weapons and other munitions and weapons in civilian hands.

Nicaragua: Nicaragua will complete its destruction of about 45,000 AP mines by the end of 2002.

Jordan: Jordan has a total stockpile of 92,420 AP mines. So far, it has destroyed 36,552. Stockpile destruction started in September 1999 and due to technical and other reasons came to a halt in 2001. Jordan plans to destroy its stockpile by the 2003 deadline. Jordan has not received any assistance for stockpile destruction.

Mozambique: Mozambique has a schedule in place to destroy its stockpile of 37,500 AP mines by March 2003, but would appreciate financial assistance from other countries to carry this out.

Congo: Stockpile destruction is on going in Congo. However, due to the political and military situation, the Government of Congo has not yet completed its national survey. The stockpile estimates published by the ICBL are exaggerated. Congo has only a stock of 700 to 900 AP mines. It intends to respect its 2005 deadline.

Tunisia: Its stockpile destruction process is on going. Tunisia has carried out stockpile destruction on two occasions so far, in June 1999 and January 2002. Tunisia plans to complete the destruction of its stockpiles by January 2004.

Japan: Japan will have destroyed 605,000 AP mines by February 2002. The remaining stockpile of about 400,000 will be destroyed by the end of February 2003. Japan is committed to accelerating its work schedule to achieve this.

Cambodia. Stockpile destruction is complete but new AP mines are at times discovered, after which they are promptly destroyed.

Chile: Chile's stockpile destruction program started in 1999. In 1999 it destroyed 2,000 AP mines, in 2000 it destroyed a further 2,000 and by September 2005 it will have destroyed the remaining 14,000 AP mines.

Thailand: Thailand destroyed 117,557 AP mines between 1999 and 2001. It intends to destroy 20,000 AP mines in each of the months of April, May, June and August 2002. The stockpile destruction process for the remaining 51,408 AP mines in Thailand will be completed before the 2003 deadline. Thailand will retain about 4000 AP mines for training purposes.

Cyprus: Since 1983 Cyprus has destroyed about 11,000 AP mines of various types.

Sweden: Stockpile destruction has been completed in Sweden. In addition, Sweden has modified its AP Claymore Mines in accordance with the Convention.

Moldova: Because of the armed conflict in 1992 Moldova has many mined areas which it is progressively clearing. Currently Moldova has 11,650 AP mines. It lacks adequate funding for their destruction. Recently Moldova signed a special agreement with NATO and Canada for assistance with stockpile destruction.

Ukraine: The Ukraine possesses 6.35 million AP mines, and is pleased to note that Canada and NATO have pledged to provide financial, technical and other assistance for the destruction of this stockpile. In its stockpile the Ukraine has 400,000 PMF- family type Mines. For the destruction of these mines special handling and destruction techniques are required.

### **Follow-Up on regional meetings and workshops**

#### **Anti-Personnel Mines Destruction Management Training Course (June 2002)**

Switzerland announced that a new Anti-Personnel Mines Destruction Management Training Course for French speaking specialists will be held in Martigny, Switzerland from 3 – 7 June 2002, and invited participation. The course will offer training for experts who are involved in their respective national management destruction programs.

#### **The Managua Challenge – the Americas**

The OAS Mine Action Coordinator, Lt. Col. William McDonough, made a presentation on the Managua Challenge. The aim of the Managua Challenge was to improve the implementation of the Convention in the region, to encourage States Parties in the region to complete their Article 7 obligations and to destroy remaining stockpiles by the 3MSP in Managua in September 2001. While not all States Parties in that region had completed their stockpile destruction, he thought that the Challenge had been a success, States Parties had completed their stockpile destruction by the 3MSP and others were on track to meet their deadlines. He concluded that a similar approach could be applied in other regions.

#### **The Tunis Workshop – Africa**

Mr. Fabrice Delaître of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) presented the outcomes of the stockpile destruction workshop held in Tunis in January 2002. (He had conducted a similar workshop in Bamako, Mali in February 2001). The workshop concluded that

there are still considerable stockpiles in Africa for which there is insufficient information on exact location, number, technical condition, etc. Information exchange on these stockpiles through Article 7 reports or through other means should therefore be a priority in Africa. He stressed that for a number of States Parties in Africa deadlines in 2003 were fast approaching.

France said that in relation to its offer at the Bamako seminar, it is still ready to share its experience in mine destruction and make available its resources in Africa for training purposes, and added that France has had the experience of destroying some UXO in Chad.

### **Kuala Lumpur Meeting – Malaysia**

Mr. Raja Reza of Malaysia outlined the results of a regional Asia Pacific Stockpile Destruction Meeting, which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 8-9 August 2001. The meeting was attended by representatives from the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) member-countries, experts and NGOs. It discussed safe, efficient and environmentally friendly methods of storage, transport and destruction operations using international standards. At the meeting UNMAS reaffirmed its willingness to coordinate stockpile destruction in AFR countries. The participants agreed that there was a need for a coordinated and comprehensive approach in the ASEAN region, that takes advantage of synergies, information exchange and past experiences. The next meeting will be held in Hanoi in May 2002.

### **Athens Meeting – NATO Partnership for Peace Program**

Mrs. Susan Pond from NATO presented the outcome of the PfP (Partnership for Peace) Workshop held in October 2001 in Athens, Greece. Among other issues, the workshop discussed the experience and methods concerning AP mine stockpile destruction in Albania, Moldova and Ukraine. Mine action and support of mine action operations is part of the PfP program. They have a high priority and are managed and funded through the PfP Trust Fund which is open to all PfP countries. The only condition for the requesting country is the support of two co-sponsors.

### **Afternoon Session**

#### **Regional Approaches to Stockpile Destruction and Assistance**

The Co-Chairs introduced and distributed a paper and table on the status of the implementation of Article 4 for all States Parties for consideration concerning problems and challenges confronting the stockpile destruction process. This paper is in line with the President's Programme of Action regarding the regional approach to stockpile destruction in that it presents the current situation in this field in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. The paper is meant to be a living document, as it will be updated regularly.

The Co-Chairs discussed regions of particular concern for stockpile destruction. There are concerns with the Central-Asian states, especially Turkmenistan for which the deadline for the completion of stockpile destruction is only 13 months ahead. For the Americas, the Managua Challenge had been an effective mechanism and had helped to ensure that in the Americas the situation regarding stockpile destruction was relatively good. A similar approach could be relevant for other regions. Africa presents problems in the stockpile destruction process, especially due to a lack of reliable information. The Bamako workshop in 2001 identified possible assistance mechanisms for this region, and new suggestions from delegations would be welcomed for the next meeting in May 2002.

The Ukraine pointed out that those states having huge stocks of AP mines will be reluctant to join the Convention, fearing that they would not be able to meet the 4 year deadline for stockpile destruction completion using only their own means.

Some delegations expressed support for assisting those countries in difficulty through programs crafted to meet specific regional situations. The need to improve cooperation between countries in the same region with regard to APM transfers for destruction was expressed by Susan Pond from NATO,

who also appealed to governments to show more flexibility in this matter, as it has been proved that industrial processing is preferable to detonation methods of APM destruction.

### **Assistance for stockpile destruction**

The Co-Chairs said that although the primary responsibility for stockpile destruction rested with each State Party, there could be better coordination of technical and financial assistance where this was genuinely required. Delegations then discussed regional approaches to stockpile destruction. The debate on this issue reflected the interest of delegations in considering in more depth the issue of provision of assistance and expertise to the States Parties confronted with difficulties in their stockpile destruction process. Delegations indicated that specific assistance programs should be tailored to meet specific needs of the State Parties.

The Co-Chairs suggested the establishment of a database by the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) with information on actual and future programs of assistance to be available to the potential recipient State Parties, alternatively such information could be collected by the Co-Chairs and ISU and made available to States Parties but not in the form of a database.

The interventions did show some important support for this idea, however concerns were also expressed that duplication and overlapping with other existing information management systems in this field should be avoided.

The need for cooperation between ISU, UNMAS and UNDP in developing this idea was considered as essential for its viability, especially in view of the pre-existing UNMAS database. The importance of donors and relevant NGOs making information on assistance programs available for such a database was also underlined.

In this context, Nicaragua and Italy reminded the meeting that the use of Form J of Article 7 reports is another source of information available to State Parties needing assistance.

The Co-Chairs appealed to donors and NGOs to provide information to them and the ISU on potential assistance with stockpile destruction.

### **Updates on Stockpile Destruction Programs**

#### **NAMSA**

Mr. Peter Courtney-Green from the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) provided a detailed presentation of the activities of the Agency in the field of demilitarization contracts with a focus on its current project in Albania. The Albanian stockpile destruction project will dispose of 1.6 million AP mines in 16 months at a total cost of US\$800,000.

Similar projects are likely to be implemented in the Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, sponsored by Canada and the Netherlands. The experience gained in the APM disposal field can be extended to other domains such as ammunition and small arms disposal.

#### **PFM Mines**

Lt. Col. John McBride from Canada provided a briefing on the challenge posed by destruction of large stocks of PFM mines and the safety risks posed by their specific construction features and toxic gases resulting from their explosion. PFM mines account for a high number of the stockpiles of several countries including some 5.6 million in the Ukraine, 3.6 million in Belarus, and reportedly 17 million in the Russian Federation.

He pointed to the conclusions of two GICHD studies on PFM mines and the risk of explosive degradation of such mines, as this type of mine is approaching the end of its shelf life. The objective

of the GICHD studies is to develop a funding and technological approach to PFM elimination applicable to all regions.

### **Concluding remarks**

The Co-Chairs thanked all States Parties that had provided updated information on their stockpile destruction and other participants that had provided updates on programs for stockpile destruction. They once again stressed that stockpile destruction deadlines are fast approaching. They said they would discuss with the ISU ways to better coordinate information on assistance programs for stockpile destruction. They said that they would continue to contact States Parties with approaching deadlines to obtain accurate information and discuss ways of meeting Article 4 obligations, and would concentrate their efforts on States Parties with real difficulties in meeting their deadlines.