

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION MEETING**  
**31 JANUARY 2002, GENEVA.**

**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL SEMINAR ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION**  
**OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND OTHER MUNITIONS, 8-9 AUGUST**  
**2001, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, PRESENTED BY MR. RAJA REZA**  
**PERMANENT MISSION OF MALAYSIA, GENEVA.**

MR. CO-CHAIRS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

1. IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INFORM YOU THAT FROM 8 TO 9 AUGUST 2001, CANADA AND MALAYSIA CO-HOSTED THE REGIONAL SEMINAR ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION AND OTHER MUNITIONS HELD IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA. THE SEMINAR WAS ATTENDED BY 21 COUNTRIES DRAWN FROM THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM (ARF) MEMBERS INCLUDING 8 NON-STATES PARTIES TO THE OTTAWA CONVENTION NAMELY CHINA, INDIA, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, MONGOLIA, VIETNAM, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, LAOS AND RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

2. OVER THE COURSE OF TWO DAYS OF DISCUSSION, PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES FROM THE REGION AND PARTNER COUNTRIES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ICBL COVERED AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF MATERIAL RELATED TO STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION. THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THIS VERY IMPORTANT WORK WERE DISCUSSED AND ANALYSED IN A SYSTEMATIC MANNER WITH THE GUIDANCE OF SOME OF THE WORLD'S LEADING EXPERTS.

3. PARTICIPANTS WERE ALSO ABLE TO SHARE INFORMATION ON SOME OF THE SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLES OF STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION FROM COUNTRIES OF THE REGION AND AROUND THE WORLD INCLUDING THE EXAMPLE OF MALAYSIA, WHERE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE DESTRUCTION OPERATIONS WERE CARRIED OUT EFFICIENTLY, SAFELY AND COST-EFFECTIVELY.

4. PARTICIPANTS HAD FRUITFUL TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS THAT WOULD LEAD TO ENHANCED COOPERATION AND NETWORKING ON THE ISSUE OF STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND OTHER MUNITIONS.

5. THE SEMINAR CLEARLY UPHOLDS THE FACT THAT STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION CONTRIBUTES TO REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY BY FUNCTIONING AS A CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURE THAT DEVELOPS TRUST BETWEEN NEIGHBOURS.

6. A REGIONAL APPROACH TO ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION AND THE HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES OF CONTAMINATION OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE AND OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR WAS ALSO RAISED AS A POTENTIALLY USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE WAY OF ADVANCING WORK IN THIS AREA.

7. ADDITIONAL WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE BY STATES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND STATES PARTIES TO THE OTTAWA CONVENTION TO CLARIFY RESPONSIBILITIES, MAKE AVAILABLE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES AND PROVIDE THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES.

8. THE UNITED NATIONS MINE ACTION SERVICE (UNMAS) HAS ALSO REAFFIRMED ITS WILLINGNESS TO COORDINATE EFFORTS ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION ACTIVITIES BY FACILITATING DIALOGUE, COORDINATING WITH THE DONORS AND MAKING INFORMATION AVAILABLE THROUGH THE UNMAS WEBSITE ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION.

9. THE FOLLOWING BEST PRACTICES WERE ADDRESSED DURING TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS AND CASE STUDIES :

(a) THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY STANDARDS IN CARRYING OUT DESTRUCTION OPERATIONS WAS HIGHLIGHTED. THESE CONSIDERATIONS MUST BE PROMOTED IN THE INITIAL STORAGE, TRANSPORT AND PREPARATION PHASES IN ADDITION TO ACTUAL DESTRUCTION OPERATIONS.

(b) TRAINING FOR PERSONNEL SHOULD BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF OPERATION TO ENSURE SAFETY, THE SUCCESSFUL DESTRUCTION OF MINES AND MEETING APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS.

(c) COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS IS A COMPLEX CALCULATION, AND SHOULD BE ASSESSED BY TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY IN QUESTION. OPEN DESTRUCTION WAS HIGHLIGHTED AS THE MOST COMMON AND OFTEN THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE METHOD OF DESTRUCTION FOR STATES WITH SMALL STOCKPILES.

(d) ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS SHOULD BE MET IN DESTRUCTION PROGRAMMES.

(e) MONITORING AND VERIFICATION SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT DURING ALL STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION PROGRAMMES BY EXECUTING AGENCIES, INDEPENDENT EXPERTS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS.

(f) STATES PARTIES TO THE OTTAWA CONVENTION HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSIST OTHER STATES ON THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION. IN THIS REGARD, A NUMBER OF STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR INTEREST IN PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NAMELY CANADA, AUSTRALIA, MALAYSIA AND GICHD.

(g) FINANCIAL RESOURCES WILL BE REQUIRED IN THE CASE OF SOME STATES THAT DO NOT HAVE THE ABILITY TO FINANCE STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION PROGRAMMES. EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO COORDINATE THE NEEDED FINANCIAL RESOURCES THROUGH INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS. REGIONAL MECHANISMS SHOULD ALSO BE USED TO COORDINATE RESOURCES WHERE POSSIBLE.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

10. IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE ISSUE OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES BE DISCUSSED AT FUTURE ARF MEETINGS. THIS IS IMPORTANT ESPECIALLY IN THIS REGION, ADHERENCE TO THE MINE-BAN TREATY IS CONSIDERABLY BELOW EXPECTATION. THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION IS THE REGION WITH THE MOST NUMBER OF NON-SIGNATORIES. PRESENTLY THERE ARE 19 COUNTRIES IN THE REGION THAT HAVE YET TO JOIN THE CONVENTION.

20. IN LINE WITH ARF OBJECTIVE OF ENHANCING TRUST AND CONFIDENCE AMONGST ARF MEMBERS AND ALSO IN FOSTERING A REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO MAINTAINING THE PEACE AND PROSPERITY OF THE REGION, THE INCLUSION OF THE MINE-BAN ISSUE WILL BE MOST APPROPRIATE.

21. IN THIS REGARD, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT A COLLECTIVE PROGRAMME BE UNDERTAKEN THROUGH THE ARF TO ENSURE THAT MAXIMUM SUPPORT ARE GIVEN BY COUNTRIES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION. EFFORTS TOWARD THIS WILL INCLUDE ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO ENSURE THAT IT ENCOURAGES RATHER THAN DISCOURAGES THOSE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE YET TO ACCEDE TO THE CONVENTION.

22. IT IS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE ISSUE OF THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BE DISCUSSED AS A MEAN TO PROMOTE CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES THROUGH THE PROCEEDS OF TWO TRACKS MADE AVAILABLE BY THE ARF CONCEPT. TRACK ONE ACTIVITIES WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY GOVERNMENTS WHILE TRACK TWO ACTIVITIES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY STRATEGIC INSTITUTIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE REGION. THE SYNERGY BETWEEN THE TWO TRACKS WOULD CONTRIBUTE GREATLY TOWARD CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN THE REGION. WE HAVE SEEN THAT REGIONAL APPROACH HAS PROVEN TO BE A SUCCESSFUL MECHANISM IN EXPEDITING AND

ACCELERATING STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION PROCESS. WE HOPE THAT THE ISSUE OF THE MINE BAN TREATY WILL BE INCLUDED FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT ARF MEETING SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN HANOI IN APRIL 2002.

THANK YOU.