Overview of Antipersonnel Mine Stockpile Destruction

Steve Goose
ICBL Treaty Working Group
24 June 2004

Status of Stockpile Destruction

- 62 States Parties have completed destroying their stocks.
- 48 more States Parties have officially declared not having stocks.
- 11 States Parties are in the process of destroying their stocks.
- 21 States need to officially declare their stockpile status
Progress So Far

- Over 31.7 million antipersonnel mines destroyed so far by SP.
  - At least another 10.4 million mines to go.
- Destruction recently completed by Suriname (February 2004), Romania (March 2004), Tajikistan (March 2004), and Lithuania (June 2004).

Developments & News

- Turkmenistan chose to destroy all but 200 retained mines.
  - ICBL delegation witnessed a destruction event in April 2004.
- Sierra Leone destroyed its stockpile of 959 antipersonnel mines in February 2003.
- Mauritius destroyed all of its retained mines in November 2003.
- No more destruction deadlines upcoming in 2004.
Issues and Concerns

- 5 SP with late transparency reports are past their destruction deadline.
  - Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Liberia, Namibia, St. Lucia
- Algeria and Bangladesh need to commence destruction operations.
  - Deadlines of April 2006 & March 2005
- Turkmenistan needs to confirm number of mines destroyed.
  - Unclear whether individual PFM mines, canisters, or cartridges were reported.
  - Could significantly increase global destruction totals.

Issues and Concerns (2)

- Guinea
  - 1 April 2003 deadline
- Cameroon
  - Voluntarily declared 500 mines for training and research purposes in March 2001.
  - *Landmine Monitor* has received a report of the Cameroon military, dated 5 May 2003, which states that a total of 9,183 antipersonnel mines had been destroyed on 17 April 2003.
  - 1 March 2007 deadline
Reclassifications and Changing Numbers

- SP initially not declaring stocks but retaining mines subsequently changing this position and destroying.
  - Lithuania, Mauritius, Suriname, Zambia
- Re-Categorization of Mauritania from having completed destruction to being in-progress.
- Does not include newly discovered stockpiles.

Conversion of Antipersonnel Mines to Command Detonated Munitions

- Separate issue than Claymore mines.
  - SP should however report steps to ensure their command-activation in transparency reports.
- Lithuania intends to convert OZM-72 bounding fragmentation mines to a command detonated munition.
  - Not a desirable practice.
  - Full transparency needed regarding irreversibility and changes to training and doctrine.
Goals for Nairobi Summit

- Eliminate ambiguity about SP with late transparency reports.
  - Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Liberia, Namibia, Nauru, Nigeria, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & Grenadines, Sao Tome & Principe, Timor-Leste

- Maximize number of SP fulfilling their obligation.
  - Colombia, Guinea-Bissau, and Tanzania appear to be poised to complete destruction.
  - Mauritania, Uruguay, and Zambia have relatively small numbers to destroy.
  - Burundi, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sudan, and Guyana also possibilities.