



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

INTERSESSIONAL PROGRAMME 2004-2005

STANDING COMMITTEE ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION

Meeting Report 15 June 2005

I. Introduction

Pursuant to the First Review Conference to the Convention held in Nairobi, the meeting of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction was convened in Geneva by its Co-Chairs, Mr. Mahbub-Uz-Zaman of Bangladesh and Mr. John MacBride of Canada, with the support of its Co-Rapporteurs, Colonel Tatsuo Nagai of Japan and Mr. Kagyabukama E. Kiliba of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Based on the Nairobi Action Plan agreed upon at the First Review Conference, in particular Action #9 & 51, #10 & 11, #13, #14, #15, #16 and #54, the Standing Committee focussed its attention on States Parties in the process of destroying mines and those which have recently completed destruction programmes, and heard presentations on results of PFM destruction, actions taken resulting from stockpiles discovered after deadlines have passed, and experiences related to stockpiles not under the control of a State Party.

The Co-Chairs encouraged all States Parties to fulfil their stockpile destruction obligations under the Nairobi Action Plan as soon as possible. They advised the Meeting that they had established a goal that stockpile destruction will be an obligation for at most 7 States Parties (Afghanistan, Belarus, Ethiopia, Greece, Serbia and Montenegro, Sudan and Turkey) by the close of the Sixth Meeting of States Parties (6MSP) in November 2005.

II. Overview of stockpile destruction efforts

The Co-Chairs provided an overview of the general status of implementation of Article 4 of the Convention. They congratulated Ethiopia as the newest country to accede to the Treaty, on 1 June, bringing the total number of States Parties to 144. A minimum of 9,944 000 AP mines must be destroyed, according to known records, and the Co-Chairs urged the 14 (or 15) States Parties who have not yet achieved their obligation to destroy their stocks to work to full implementation of Article 4.

Mr. Kerry Brinkert, Manager of the Implementation Support Unit, was called upon to introduce an overview document prepared by the ISU. Mr. Brinkert noted that three of the 14 (or 15) countries have formally indicated their stockpile destruction obligations are already completed and that one declared its obligations would be completed by the 6MSP.

Mr. Steve Goose of the ICBL presented an overview on progress made in destroying stockpiles. He noted that 69 States Parties had completed their destruction, 57 had declared no stocks, 13 were in the process of completing their destruction and 5 States Parties were required to officially declare their stockpile status. Of the 5, two (Guyana and Ethiopia) are believed to hold stocks. Out of the 15 that need to meet stockpile destruction obligations, 6 are in the process of planning or have begun an inventory for stockpile destruction.

Mr. Goose stated that over 38.3 million AP mines had been destroyed, with at least 10 million remaining. He noted that stockpile destruction is one of the most successful areas of implementation of the Treaty as it constitutes preventative mine action, and pointed out that to date, all States Parties

with deadlines have completed stockpile destruction (two were late but completed destruction nevertheless). He stressed the clause 'as soon as possible, but not later than' in the Nairobi Action Plan, highlighting that 22 countries had destroyed all their stockpiles two or more years before their destruction deadlines.

Mr. Goose expressed lingering concerns over the lack of Article 7 reports from Equatorial Guinea, Cape Verde, Guyana, Sao Tome and Cameroon. He asked that Cameroon, although its deadline is not until March 2007, clarify its status as, despite previously having reported no stocks except 500 mines for training, it subsequently destroyed over 9000 AP mines.

Concerning the problem of stockpiles discovered after the completion of destruction, as in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad and Croatia, he advised that States Parties show full transparency by reporting the mines immediately and destroying them as early as possible, at least within a year. The issue of the destruction of PFM and Artillery Delivered AP Mines (ADAM) was also raised, with the Ukraine, Belarus (for PFM mines), and Greece and Turkey (for ADAM mines) given as examples. He advised that cyrofracture might be an appropriate technology for the destruction of ADAM. Mr. Goose noted that, after stockpile destruction is completed, States Parties only need to submit a report using form D, not form B. Multipurpose Firing Devices and Fuses were highlighted as an emerging concern, due to their undefined status. He called for transparency and technical understanding in this regard.

Mr. Goose challenged at least 7 of the remaining States Parties to complete stockpile destruction by the 6MSP, and noted that the Democratic Republic of Congo as well as Sudan required assistance in locating and invoicing their stockpiles. He also encouraged transparency in all events with civil society and media involvement to promote confidence building.

III. Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of implementation

Updates were provided by the following States Parties that recently completed stockpile destruction, States Parties in the process of destroying their stocks, and States not parties.

A. States Parties that have recently completed stockpile destruction

- **Bangladesh** was the first South Asian Country to ratify the APM Convention, and has taken action in the areas of national legislation, stockpile destruction, transparency on retention levels, and participation at relevant meetings. It reported that it has completed its destruction programme with 189,227 stockpiled AP mines destroyed from 25 March 2004 to 28 February 2005, concluding that no mined or suspected mined areas exist in Bangladesh. The destruction process was carried out in three phases – collection and preparation, transportation, and destruction – in a secure area under applicable safety and environmental standards. Gratitude was expressed to the Government of Canada, UNDP and the GICHD for their assistance. Bangladesh also informed that a minimum number of 14,999 mines have been retained under the terms of Article 3 for training in mine detection, clearance and destruction as well as preparatory training for the officers /soldiers detailed for UN Peace keeping Operations.
- **Uruguay** reported having completed stockpile destruction one year before its deadline, with the last destruction of 783 mines on 15 September 2004. The destruction of stockpiles was undertaken periodically in the presence of officials from the Ministry of External Affairs and experts. Uruguay highlighted that it is not affected by armed conflict and has not laid any mines, but it has played a traditionally supportive role to peacekeeping operations in the UN, OAS, and Mercosur, among others. Given the level of skill of its armed forces, Uruguay noted its preparedness to aid countries requiring assistance.
- **Mauritania** confirmed that it had destroyed all its stockpiled AP mines, the last destruction of 5000 mines taking place on 5 December 2004, with the exception of 728 mines retained for

training purposes. The destruction ceremony was attended by high level officials from various countries as well as representatives from international organisations, NGOs and the media. It noted the important role the UNDP played in funding the operation which was funded by the Government of Canada.

- **Tanzania** reported that it had completed the destruction of its stockpile of 22,841 AP mines ahead of its deadline, with the fourth and final phase completed on 29 July 2004.
- **Colombia** has a total of 3756 AP mine victims, the third largest in the world, and is the only Latin American country where mines are still being laid. It reported 92% of contaminated areas as rural. Colombia reported having completed destruction of 18,922 AP mines under military control, before its deadline of 1 March 2005, on 24 October 2004, with 889 mines retained for research purposes. The mines were destroyed pursuant to international standards in a transparent manner, with broad-based participation from donors and civil society, in a decentralised manner. Colombia noted it had a management information system to store detailed information on AP mines. Canada and the OAS were acknowledged as having provided cooperation and technical assistance.
- **Honduras** noted the efforts made by the armed forces, the OAS, and Canada, Mexico and the Pan American Health Organisation to declare Honduras an AP mine free zone. It reported 2,191 mines and 214 UXO destroyed, a total of approximately 447,000 square meters of affected land cleared, with an estimated 70 000 families benefiting from the programme. These operations were conducted according to international security norms. Honduras requested assistance from the international community and donor countries for mine victim rehabilitation.

B. States Parties in the process of destroying stocks

- **Algeria** reported the completion of destruction of 144,020 mines, or 96% of its stockpile of 150,050 mines designated for destruction, by 24 May 2005. Destruction has been undertaken in a phased and sequenced, transparent manner, with a coordinating committee identified.
- **Angola** reported that it plans to undertake stockpile destruction in partnership with CNIDAH, UNDP, INAD and FAA in five phases over a period of 2 years and requested UNDP technical assistance. The project, with a budget of 1,765,000 EUR, is to be co-financed by the Angolan government, EC, and UNDP. It highlighted the overall objective of the project as consolidating civilian security, peace and development. It noted that, in the case of government policy change, natural disaster, excessive inflation, delays in appropriation of funds, lack of commitment, or divergence in estimated stockpile numbers, the project will be revised. The guiding principles of institutional and financial sustainability, empowerment and participation were noted.
- **Belarus** recalled its task to destroy 3,670,359 AP mines within four years of 1 March 2004. It noted that 3592 AP mines were destroyed in 2005, including 2592 PFM-1 type, however it reiterated the need for financial and technical assistance to destroy more than 3.6 million PFM mines. Belarus welcomed the support given to it by Canada and the EC.
- **Afghanistan** reported that, thanks to donor support, an additional 22,892 AP mines had been destroyed in 8 Afghan provinces, subsequent to the destruction of 4,266 mines reported last year. It highlighted that a nation-wide project to identify, survey and secure ammunition storage points had been put in place and had identified some 1.8 million devices. Afghanistan expressed confidence in being able to meet its 2007 deadline, however it noted the requirement of substantive assistance to address its ERW challenge.
- **Burundi** noted the significant challenges it faces to implement the Ottawa Convention to which it became a State Party in October 2003. It reported a stockpile of 1,200 mines retained

for training purposes under Article 3 of the Convention. Burundi noted that POMZ-2M mines can be used as donor explosive for the destruction of mines and UXO in minefields.

- **Serbia and Montenegro** reported on the joint project of NAMSA and its Ministry of Defence to demilitarize its 1,320, 620 AP mine stockpile, totalling EUR 1,689,996, with assistance from Canada, Austria and others. It reported that the project had begun in March 2005, with the beginning of production due to start on 15 June and the Official Launch planned for mid August. Full transparency and media coverage will be ensured.
- **Guinea Bissau** reported preparation by the Armed Forces was underway for the destruction of the remaining 3,997 stockpiled AP mines. It advised it would meet its deadline of 1 November 2005.

C. States not parties

- **Somalia:** H.E. Hussen M. Aideed, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the Transitional Federal Government of the Somali Republic provided an update on stockpile destruction. He reaffirmed Somalia's commitment to the destruction of over 3,500 AP mines and other munitions held in storage, and noted Somalia would strive for an early entry into force of the Ottawa Convention, before the next meeting of States Parties. The establishment of a coordinating national mine action institution within the Ministry of Interior is planned and he reaffirmed Somalia's commitment to destroy stockpiles once the technical expertise is in place to carry this out safely. He noted Somalia is working with UNDP, in turn working with Geneva Call, to raise funding for national capacity building. He also acknowledged the support of other countries and called for further assistance to enable ratification to the Ottawa Convention as the country is being re-established. He noted mines and UXO adversely impact the economy and destroy livelihoods.
- **Geneva Call** has been engaging factional leaders in Somalia to cooperate on mine action since 2002, and conducted a field assessment mission in September 2004 to collect more information and explore how to provide assistance in collaboration with UNDP. It reported that Somalia was not a producer of AP mines, however mines could be bought easily throughout the country and from neighbouring countries, and explosives extracted from mines were subject to trafficking and surface-to-air missiles had also been found. It noted the need for technical assistance and support from the international community.
- **Ukraine:** Mr. Volodymyr Tereschenko, Deputy Minister of Defence of Ukraine reaffirmed his country's determination to fulfill its obligations under the Convention. To this end Ukraine has signed a Memorandum of Mutual Cooperation with Canada which has helped the country to do away with AP mines. They were looking forward to complete the destruction by the end of this year. Ukraine was also in the process of signing an agreement with the European Commission which envisages the destruction of 6 million PFM mines. This requires genuine cooperation with all actors so they can destroy all stockpiled landmines.

III. Update on resource mobilisation, co-operation and assistance

Austria highlighted its political and financial contribution to various mine related activities, in coordination with other States and institutions, including the EC. It outlined its bilateral Mine Action Programme, amounting to some EUR 2.4 million in 2004, primarily focussing on target countries of Austrian Development Cooperation, namely South East Europe where 60% of financial assistance flows. It also reported on support for the NATO Partnership for Peace Trust Fund project in Albania and in Serbia and Montenegro where Austria, together with Canada, has become a 'co-lead nation' in order to contribute to the further stabilization of the Balkan region.

The Serbia and Montenegro project aims at the destruction of over 1.3 million AP mines over a roughly two year period, amounting to approximately EUR 1.69 million. Almost EUR 1.3 million has already been contributed or pledged, with Austria's contribution amounting to EUR 250,000. NAMSA is serving as the executing agent for the project, however national ownership was highlighted as the key to success.

European Commission: The representative of the European Commission advised that the Commission has been supporting several projects for the destruction of "common" landmines in Nicaragua, Angola and Afghanistan. Of the three countries, Nicaragua has completed the destruction, while Angola's was underway, and Afghanistan is foreseen for 2006.

IV. Matters of a thematic nature related to stockpile destruction

A. PFM destruction techniques

The EC congratulated Ukraine on the law recently passed by its Parliament to make ratification of the Mine Ban Treaty possible. It announced that after thorough consultations with Ukraine, the EC was now in the process of calling for tenders for the destruction of the 6 million PFM mines stockpiled in Ukraine. This was the result of several years' multilateral and bilateral efforts at scientific, administrative and political levels. It was also announced that the European Commission has started working with Belarus on the details of the project for the destruction of that country's PFM stockpiles. Professor Krejsa gave a presentation of the technical and scientific background of EC/Ukraine project that included options for the destruction of PFM mines.

B. Dealing with stockpiles discovered after deadlines have passed

UNMAS reported on its continued efforts to support mine affected states in stockpile destruction of AP mines and ERW, to mobilise resources, and to maintain a stockpile destruction database (www.mineaction.org/misc/stockpilesearch.cfm), and in particular to address the challenges posed by stockpiles under the control of non-state actors.

It noted the challenge of lack of reliable information or records, citing the DRC as an example where rebels were reported to have handed over previously unreported small stocks of mines. UNMAS reported that it is developing a comprehensive information-gathering strategy to address this problem.

In Afghanistan, it highlighted the monumental scale of the UXO problem, with some 150,000 to 200,000 tons of poorly documented and poorly secured ERW which are falling into the hands of armed groups. It noted the need for funds to assist the MAPA programme support national authorities in developing operational plans for destruction of ERW.

In Somalia, national EOD capacity, supported by UNDP, was reported to be cost effective and efficient in destroying and processing munitions in the control of warring factions and regional administrations.

In Sudan, UNMAS provides coordination assistance and the UNDP Country Office is assisting the Government in the practical implementation of destruction tasks through five mine action partners.

In Bangladesh, the UNDP in collaboration with the Government of Canada helped the government to meet the deadline for completing its stockpile destruction obligations.

C. Experiences related to stockpiles not under the control of a State Party

Bosnia and Herzegovina drew the States Parties' attention to the Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (the Dayton Agreement) which provides for comprehensive authority to the International Armed Forces deployed in that country. The Dayton Agreement which came into force in December 1995 mandated the International Armed Forces to conduct regular operations in terms of search for and collection of among others, illegally held weapons, ammunition and explosives. Moreover the International Armed Forces have contributed to active demining and destruction in some areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina which have resulted in the following mines not under the control of the BiH Government being addressed:

- In 2002, 4,156 mines were collected through operations with 612 mines and UXOs destroyed;
- In 2003, 7,247 mines were collected, with 576 mines and UXOs destroyed;
- In 2004, 3,231 mines were collected through operations, and 1384 mines and UXOs were destroyed;
- Between January and May 2005 320 mines were collected and 346 mines and UXOs were destroyed.

V. Concluding remarks

In their concluding remarks the Co-Chairs:

- Stressed the importance of achieving the goal set in spite of the problems facing us. The Co-Chairs called on Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Cyprus, DRC, and Guyana to help achieve that goal.
- Noted the challenges posed by ADAM mines and multifunction fuses as identified by the ICBL .
- Congratulated once again States that have completed the destruction of their stockpiles, in particular those that beat their deadlines. (Bangladesh, Colombia, Mauritania, Tanzania, and Uruguay).
- Noted that Action item 14 related to PFM mines is on the way to being resolved thanks to EC support in Ukraine and Belarus.
- Called on States that have discovered mines after the deadline to destroy them as soon as possible.
- Thanked the EC for the role it has played in all areas of stockpile destruction but particularly for the role it has played in gaining Ukraine ratification of the Convention. The Co-Chairs particularly thank Daniela Dicoradio-Andreonetti and Josick Van Drome for their tireless efforts in bringing this about.

The Co-Chairs listed the following issues as important for the successful implementation of the stockpile destruction programme:

- Resource mobilisation
- Commitment of national governments
- Predictability and sustainability of funding
- Learning from others through best practices
- Bilateral assistance
- Identifying potential donors
- Exploring complementary mechanisms
- Efficient coordination at a local and international level
- A time bound phased approach
- Provisions for reporting and monitoring previously unknown stockpiles