

## **ICRC intervention**

### **Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction Monday 2 June 2007, first intervention**

Thank you Madame Co-chair.

Let me start by congratulating the States of Burundi and Sudan for having completed the destruction of their known stockpiled AP mines before the expiry of their deadline this year.

We would like to thank Belarus, Greece and Turkey for having provided today additional information about their implementation of article 4 of the Convention.

The ICRC is deeply concerned that Belarus, Greece and Turkey have declared that they have not been able to comply with their article 4 deadlines this year. This negatively affects the credibility of the convention and undermines the previously almost perfect record of compliance with this obligation. The current situation can also have real humanitarian implications if it begins to signal that States Parties may neglect their treaty obligations.

We urge these States to announce when they will be in a position to comply with article 4 at the earliest possibility. These States should also share their plans and information on progress in fulfilling their stockpile destruction obligations with other States Parties on a regular basis.

All States Parties should be deeply concerned about these situations. Despite addressing these issues at working level for years, we are still facing this alarming situation. It might well repeat itself in 2010 with the Ukraine, unless urgent action is taken. If it can't be resolved in the very near future with the announcements by these States Parties of a date of completion of their obligations under article 4, all States Parties, including the EC institutions which are involved in some cases, should address these issues at a higher political level.

I would like to conclude by thanking the Turkish authorities for having invited the ICRC to take part in a two day visit to their new Munitions Disposal Facilities as well as the Turkish Armed Forces new Rehabilitation and Health Care Centre in Ankara on 22 and 23 May 2008.