

The General Status of Implementation of Article 4

Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction (Lithuania and Serbia)

2 June 2008

The Dead Sea Progress Report recorded that at the close of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties, 145 States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention no longer held stocks of anti-personnel mines, either because they never did or because they had completed their destruction programmes. In addition, the Dead Sea Progress Report noted that the obligation to destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines remained relevant for eight States Parties: **Belarus, Burundi, Ethiopia, Greece, Indonesia, Sudan, Turkey and Ukraine**. As well, the Dead Sea Progress Report indicated that together the States Parties had reported the destruction of approximately 40 million stockpiled mines.

Since the 8MSP, the following has transpired:

- Five States Parties have had deadlines for complying with Article 4 stockpile destruction obligations. Two have these States Parties – **Burundi** and **Sudan** – have indicated that they have fulfilled their Article 4 stockpile destruction obligations. Three of these States Parties – **Belarus, Greece and Turkey** – have not complied with their obligations by their deadlines.
- The Convention has entered into force for **Kuwait** and it has since indicated that it has stockpiled anti-personnel mines that it must destroy.

On this basis, there remain seven States which have ratified or acceded to the Convention which have not yet indicated that they have completed implementation of Article 4. They are:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| ▪ Belarus | ▪ Kuwait |
| ▪ Ethiopia | ▪ Turkey |
| ▪ Greece | ▪ Ukraine |
| ▪ Indonesia | |

In addition, the Convention has entered into force for Iraq and it will need to clarify in an initial transparency report that is not yet due whether it has stocks that it must destroy.

As well, four States Parties, for which it is assumed do not possess stockpiled anti-personnel mines – **Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia and Haiti** – are overdue in providing an initial transparency report, which is required 180 days after entry into force. Again, it is important that such States Parties confirm or correct the record with respect to the assumption that stocks are not held.

In terms of measuring progress, there are now as many as 149 States Parties that now no longer own or possess stockpiled anti-personnel mines. On the basis of information provided by the States Parties, 39,905,438 mines have been destroyed and 13,963,228 remain to be destroyed.

The Dead Sea Progress Report highlighted that “while the number of States Parties which must fulfil Article 4 obligations is small, serious challenges remain.” These challenges are even more profound than they were six months ago.

Three States Parties, together possessing almost eight million anti-personnel mines, have failed to comply with their deadlines and remain non-compliant. These States Parties must do all they can, as soon as they can, to fulfill the solemn commitments they made when they ratified or acceded to the Convention. However, all others also have a responsibility to do what they can to respond to appeals by assistance – by these States Parties and others – in accordance with our obligations under Article 6, paragraph 5 of the Convention.

The question of compliance points to certain questions we must not avoid.

- First: In keeping with the States Parties’ obligation “to consult and cooperate with each other regarding the implementation of the provisions of this Convention, and to work together in a spirit of cooperation to facilitate compliance by States Parties with their obligation under this Convention,” how should States Parties act?
- Second: What can be done to prevent future concerns about compliance with Article 4 implementation by deadlines?

As Co-Chairs, we have taken these questions very seriously.

We have given special attention to the challenges to comply on the part of those States Parties that must destroy vast quantities of Soviet-era PFM mines, in part by convening on 11 April 2008 informal closed consultations with representatives of the States Parties concerned, with the participation of interested donors, experts and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

In addition, we have been active in giving due attention to other cases of non-compliance and other instances when efforts should be under taken to prevent future instances of non-compliance. In this regard, we have prepared a series of recommendations for the States Parties to consider. If there is general support for the types of recommendations we have made, this may be a matter that the 9MSP may wish to embrace in some way.

While the challenges are great, we must not forget to mark our accomplishments. In this regard the Co-Chairs wish to congratulate Burundi and Sudan for having completed their destruction programmes. The efforts of these States, with the support of others including the UNDP which has provided significant support in both cases, brings us one step closer to our vision of a mine free world.

Thank you.

Timelines for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 4

State Party	2007												2008												2009												2010												2011											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S			
Belarus																																																												
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Kuwait																																																												
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Turkey																																																												
Ukraine																																																												

- Key:
- States Parties that have reported the fulfillment of their obligations under Article 4 since the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties
 - States Parties that are in the process of fulfilling their obligations under Article 4 and that have deadlines beyond 2008
 - States Parties that in in the process of fulfilling their obligations under Article 4 and that have missed their deadlines for destroying their stockpiled anti-personnel mines