

11 May 2006

**STATEMENT BY THE TURKISH DELEGATION
DURING THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION**

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your assumption of your duties as Co-Chairs and the Co-Rapporteurs for their new tasks. Best wishes also go to Mr. Kerry Brinkert, who is also on the podium, representing the GICHD.

My Delegation would like provide three sets of updates in this section, all fairly quickly. The first set is the latest data on mines in stock. The second is information on steps being taken to dispose of them. Thirdly, we would like to share some pertinent information on victim activated M18 Claymore mines.

On the issue of what is in stock, there are 2,979,165 anti-personnel landmines, out of which 1,741,684 are M2, 43,853 are M16, 1,005,461 are M14 and 18,236 are M18 Claymore mines. The technical characteristics of these mines can be found in our 2006 Article 7 Report. The number of anti-personnel mines in stock was reported in our 2005 Article 7 Report as 2,973,481. What appears at first glance as an increase from last year is due to the fact that new counts were carried out in 2005 and also because Artillery Delivered Anti-personnel Mines or ADAM mines were added to stockpile figures for the first time. The number of ADAM mines was quantified as 22,788 and this by multiplying 633 munitions with 36 sub-munitions in each.

On the issue of destruction, Turkey had mentioned its intent to set-up a Mine and Ordnance Disposal Facility. Following ongoing efforts in 2005, my Delegation would like to inform you that a company has been awarded the contract for the said facility. An agreement was signed between the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) – through which this facility will be established, albeit with Turkey's own resources – and the successful company on the 20th of December 2005. Efforts are continuing to get the Facility up and running by July 2007, so that stockpiled mines can be disposed of by the 1st of March 2008 deadline.

Finally, on M-18 Claymore mines, the victim activation components of M18 Claymore mines have recently been added to the list of mines to be destroyed and the necessary steps have been taken to stock only command detonated M18 Claymore mines.

I trust that these updates will be useful for interested delegations and serve as another testament to the seriousness Turkey attaches to its commitments under the Ottawa Convention.

I thank you, Distinguished Co-Chairs.