

## Notes for ICRC intervention on stockpile destruction

Thursday, 1 December 2011

Thank you Mr. President.

We would like to thank the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, South Sudan and Guinea Bissau for having reported, in accordance with action point #12 of the Cartagena Action Plan, the newly discovered stockpiles and for their undertaking that they will destroy these early in 2012.

We would like to thank the 4 States that provided us with precise and detailed updates today on the status of their plans to destroy their remaining stocks of AP mines and to rectify their inability to meet their article 4 deadline.

The ICRC is delighted to hear from **Turkey** that the remaining 22 716 ADAM mines have now been fully destroyed by a German company. We would like to commend Turkey for its perseverance and congratulate them for having destroyed and ensured the destruction of their entire stocks of anti-personnel mines.

We would like to thank **Greece** for the detailed update provided on its plans to ensure the destruction of the remaining 60% of its stockpiles. The ICRC is extremely concerned by the update given by Greece and the absence of progress reported as the new contract to be negotiated with EAS has not been finalised and does not seem forthcoming. Almost 2 years have passed without Greece being able to secure the destruction of any of the remaining 60% of its stockpiles. The announcement by Greece this morning that they are examining other alternatives and assessing offers of other companies is welcomed. Greece might also envisage the possibility of seeking external financial assistance in order to effectively ensure the destruction of its stocks of AP mines. We of course recognise the exceptional economic circumstances Greece is facing but we urge increased efforts at the political level by Greece in order to rectify this situation of non-compliance and to put higher priority to the destruction of their stocks of AP Mines.

We would like to thank **Belarus** for its very detailed update this morning. We are very pleased to hear that all administrative and technical steps have been accomplished in the last year, including the construction of a destruction facility, which is to be completed before the end of this month. We understand from the contract awarded to the Spanish company selected by the European Commission that it has 28 months from December 2010 to complete the destruction of PFM-1 mines in Belarus. There is therefore only 16 months left to effectively destroy 3 million mines. We hope that the company will be able to start actual destruction of stocks early next year. We would like to commend the persistence of Belarus officials and of the EU and its Commission in ensuring the soon to be successful conclusion of efforts which have gone on for many years.

Finally, we would like to thank **Ukraine** for its detailed presentation and commend Ukraine for the progress accomplished this year. We are delighted to hear that a contract has been signed with NAMSA through a NATO trust fund for the destruction of half of the Ukrainian PFM-1 mines. Ukraine also mentioned the possibility of using the ENPI, European Neighbouring Partnership instrument to fund the destruction of the other half of the stockpiles. We hope that Ukraine will explore this possibility as a matter of urgency and report with more details on its progress. We look forward to further update by the Ukraine and the good news that large scale destruction has started.