

**ICRC Statement on Stockpile Destruction,  
13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention,  
5 December 2013**

The ICRC welcomes the updates provided today by five States Parties still working towards meeting their Article 4 obligations. We are very pleased to have heard that **Poland** and **Finland** both appear to be well on track to meeting those deadlines ahead of time.

The ICRC also notes with appreciation the updates provided by **Belarus**, **Greece** and the **Ukraine**, on their ongoing efforts to complete the destruction of their stockpiled anti-personnel mines. Although all three States Parties remain in non-compliance with their obligations under Article 4 of the Convention, we acknowledge that this situation is not voluntary. We are also encouraged by the strong commitment expressed today by Belarus, Greece and the Ukraine to fulfil their obligations and that progress is being made in each case.

In regards to the statement of **Greece**, it is promising to hear that stockpile destruction is now scheduled to begin in Bulgaria in early 2014. The ICRC expresses the sincere hope that by the Third Review Conference, Greece will be in a position to declare substantial progress with the destruction programme, if not the destruction of its entire stockpile, thus enabling the closure of the final chapter of this story.

We have also noted the developments in **Belarus**, which should allow for a pilot destruction programme to begin in January 2014. We urge the European Commission to work closely with Belarus and the contractor EXPAL to ensure that stockpile destruction continues consistently and expeditiously thereafter, in line with a destruction plan, which should be announced by the Third Review Conference.

In relation to the **Ukraine**, the ICRC welcomes the news that over 330,000 PFM-1 mines were destroyed in 2013, thanks to German funding, and that 3 million PFM-1 mines will be destroyed by 2015 with European Commission funding, which it is pleasing to note should finally be available soon. We also note the role of the United States as lead nation in the NATO Partnership for Peace project in the Ukraine, which is supporting the Ukraine's stockpile destruction efforts.

With the backdrop of this positive news, we urge the Ukraine to inform the States Parties of the status of its stockpile of 149,096 POM-2 mines, which it committed to destroying with its national resources, but about which no additional information was provided today. We also call upon the Ukraine to make clear plans for the destruction of the balance of its PFM-1 mines that are not covered by the NATO Partnership for Peace project and to report these plans, as well as a resource mobilisation strategy, at the Third Review Conference.

We look forward to hearing further developments on all three cases at the Third Review Conference and hope that the momentum will continue and intensify until all stockpile destruction obligations have been met.