

CONCLUSIONS ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 4 (STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION) OF THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION¹

SUBMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES

I. Summary

1. At the close of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties (15MSP), and further to the announcement of the completion of its stockpile destruction obligations by Poland, four States Parties had reported that they were still in the process of implementing Article 4 of the Convention, including three States Parties – Belarus, Greece and Ukraine - that have missed their deadline for the completion of Article 4 and one State Party – Oman - with a deadline still to come.
2. In the context of the implementation of Actions #5 to #7 of the Maputo Action Plan, the 15MSP appealed to the States Parties which are in non-compliance with their article 4 obligations to intensify efforts for the completion of their stockpile destruction obligations.
3. One State Party – Bulgaria – reported that stockpiled anti-personnel mines were transferred to its territory for the purpose of destruction.
4. In April 2017, Belarus announced the completion of its stockpile destruction programme.
5. Under Article 7 of the Convention, each year, no later than 30 April, States Parties shall provide updated information on the total of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed by it, or under its jurisdiction or control, the status of programmes for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines and the number of stockpiled anti-personnel mines destroyed in the previous calendar year. The provision of updated information through annual transparency reports is of utmost importance to take stock of progress and challenges in the implementation of Article 4 stockpile destruction obligations.
6. On 25 April 2017, the President wrote to Belarus, Greece, Oman and Ukraine to encourage them to provide updated information through their Article 7 transparency. All four States Parties in the process of implementing Article 4 of the Convention submitted updated information in accordance with the relevant provisions of Article 7. In addition, updated information was provided by Belarus, Greece and Ukraine as well as Bulgaria at the intersessional meetings.
7. Some States Parties report anti-personnel mines retained for purposes permitted under Article 3 as “stockpiled anti-personnel mines.” The President recommended that, to ensure clarity and avoid double counting, anti-personnel mines retained for permitted purposes should not be reported as “stockpiled anti-personnel mines” and should be reported separately. In this context the Guide to reporting could assist States Parties in providing transparency in an unambiguous manner on matters concerning both Articles 3 and 4.
8. Based on the updated transparency information provided by States Parties in 2017 or on information previously provided, the following is understood to be the quantity of anti-personnel mines destroyed and remaining to be destroyed by Belarus, Greece, Oman, and Ukraine:

¹ These conclusions have been prepared using information submitted by the States Parties through their Article 7 reports and through statements delivered at Meetings of the States Parties and intersessional meetings.

State Party	Total number of anti-personnel mines destroyed	Total number of anti-personnel mines remaining to be destroyed	Article 4 projected completion date
Belarus	3,919,927 ²	0	Completed
Greece ³	924,900	643,267	Timeline to be established ⁴
Ukraine	1,891,792 ⁵	4,911,589 ⁶	2021
Oman ⁷	4,578	10,682	Within the Article 4 deadline

II. Information provided by States Parties on the implementation of Article 4: conclusions by the President

Belarus

9. **Belarus**, on 24 November 2016, indicated that on 22 December 2010, the European Commission signed a contract with "Explosivos Alaveses SA (Expal)" for the destruction of more than 3 million PFM-1-type mines). The European Commission allocated EUR 3,900,000 to the project. Belarus recalled that a number of circumstances led to the delay in the practical stage of the destruction of mines, in particular the potential threat posed by the destruction of PFM-1 type mines to the population and the environment.
10. Belarus reported that Expal constructed a PFM-1 mine destruction facility from April 2011 to March 2014: a container-type plant, the main elements of which were a thick-walled armored chamber for direct detonation of ammunition, as well as a gas purification system to prevent the release of harmful substances in the atmosphere produced as a result of the destruction of PFM-type mines. Belarus reported that Expal carried out the destruction of the Belarusian stockpiled anti-personnel mines using innovative technology, the so-called "cold detonation" during which the products of the explosion form solid waste and gases are processed to a safe state, which allows them to be disposed of in a solid waste landfill. Belarusian personnel were involved in servicing the destruction facility.
11. On 5 April 2017, Belarus reported that it had completed the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 4.
12. In information provided by Belarus on 17 May 2017, Belarus indicated that it destroyed a total of 3,667,623 anti-personnel mines, including 294,775 PMN, PMN-2, POM-2 type mines destroyed between May and December 2006 and 3,372,848 PFM-1 type mines destroyed between March 2014 and April 2017. In information provided by Belarus at the 8-9 June 2017 intersessional meetings, Belarus indicated that it destroyed a total of 3,919,927 anti-personnel mines.
13. The President welcomed the announcement made by Belarus that it had completed the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 4. The President concluded that Belarus has provided information on the quantity and lot numbers of each type of anti-personnel mine destroyed and also on the methods used for the destruction of anti-personnel mines.

² Statement delivered by Belarus, intersessional meetings, 9 June 2017. In other information submitted on 17 May 2017, Belarus indicates that the total number of anti-personnel mines destroyed is 3,667,623.

³ Statement delivered by Greece, intersessional meetings, 30 June 2017, and Article 7 report submitted by Greece in 2017.

⁴ In its statement delivered on 9 June 2017, Greece indicated that it is anticipated that the remaining stockpile will be destroyed over a period of 20 months after the signature of a revised contract with the MOD.

⁵ Statement delivered by Ukraine at Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties, 30 November 2016 and Article 7 report submitted by Ukraine in 2017. The number of stockpiled anti-personnel mines destroyed is a deduction from the difference between the 2016 and 2017 total numbers of mines remaining to be destroyed.

⁶ Article 7 report submitted by Ukraine in 2017.

⁷ Article 7 report submitted by Oman in 2017.

Greece

14. At the 8-9 June 2017 intersessional meetings, **Greece** indicated that since the 15MSP, the Legal Council of State concluded that from a legal perspective there is no apparent hindrance in order for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to sign a revised contract with Hellenic Defence Systems (HDS). Greece further indicated that the demilitarization procedure of the anti-personnel mines as described by HDS covers the requirements set by the Hellenic Army General Staff (HASG), based on recognised standards.
15. Greece indicated that HDS anticipates the remaining stockpile to be destroyed over a period of 20 months after the signature of the revised contract with the MoD.
16. The President concluded that Greece had provided information on a potential timeline once the necessary internal procedures are completed. In this context, the President encourages Greece to provide, as soon as a revised contract is signed between HDS and the MoD, a precise timeline for the destruction of the remaining stockpiled anti-personnel mines.
17. Concerning the 190,572 anti-personnel mines stored at the Videx facilities in Bulgaria, Greece indicated that it was informed by the Bulgarian Ministry of Defence that there is no plant on Bulgarian territory which can undertake their demilitarization and therefore the solution for the destruction in Bulgaria is no longer a viable option. In light of this situation, the competent department of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign affairs provided their Bulgarian counterparts with the necessary clarifications on the legal obstacles which must be overcome by HDS in order to settle the issue.
18. In its Article 7 transparency report submitted in 2017, Greece reported that there were 643,267 remaining stockpiled anti-personnel mines to be destroyed, 190,572 of which are stored in VIDEX warehouses in Bulgaria. Greece further reported that the difference of 2 mines between the previously declared number (643,265) and the current number is due to the fact that 42 instead of 44 anti-personnel mines were used by the Bulgarian Authorities in order to conduct an investigation experiment on the origins of the explosion at Videx facilities. Greece further reported that 924,909 anti-personnel mines have already been destroyed.
19. The President highlighted that while Greece did not report any destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines in 2016, there seemed to be a difference of 7 anti-personnel mines between the total reported destroyed in 2015 (924,902) and the total reported in 2016 (924,909). At the 8-9 June 2017 intersessional meetings, Greece indicated that the amount of anti-personnel mines actually destroyed was 924,900 and that the difference was due to a typing error. The President concluded that Greece had provided clarity on the matter of total number of stockpiled anti-personnel mines destroyed.
20. The President concluded that while Greece had regularly provided updated information on the status of anti-personnel mines stored in Bulgaria, an early settlement of this issue with a clear timeline for the destruction of these stockpiled anti-personnel mines, as soon as possible, would be welcome.

Ukraine

21. On 16 August 2016 Ukraine indicated that the timeline for the destruction of 3 million PFM-1 type anti-personnel mines depended on the production capacity of the State enterprise "Scientific-Production Association – Pavlograd Chemical Plant" which is the only actor in Ukraine authorised to conduct anti-personnel mine disposal. Ukraine informed that at the current rate,

these 3 million mines are expected to be destroyed by 2019. Ukraine also indicated that the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines, depending on the production capacity of the authorised contractor, was expected to be completed in 2021.

22. At the 15MSP, Ukraine reported that since February 2014, a significant portion of Ukraine's financial resources are directed primarily towards the preparation of defence forces and that the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines had been stopped. However, Ukraine indicated that despite the difficult economic situation, in December 2015, Ukraine resumed the destruction process of PFM-1 and PFM-1S type anti-personnel mines. To this end, two additional agreements were signed between the Ministry of Defence, NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) and the Pavlograd Chemical Plant, (1) from 26 November 2015 for the destruction of 642,960 PFM-1 type mines and (2) from 22 August 2016 for the destruction of 464,896 PFM-1S type mines. Within this framework, Ukraine reported that 642,960 stockpiled PFM-1 type mines and 24,684 PFM-1S type had already been destroyed at the Pavlograd Chemical Plant.
23. At the 15MSP in December 2016 Ukraine indicated that it had destroyed 1,886,672 stockpiled anti-personnel mines and provided the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine destroyed, thereby implying that 667,664 stockpiled anti-personnel mines were destroyed since the 14MSP (1,219,008 destroyed in total). Ukraine indicated that 4,916,709 stockpiled anti-personnel mines remained to be destroyed and provided the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mines. Ukraine reiterated that the 605 OZM-4 mines are located in areas outside of Ukraine's effective control while all other stockpiled anti-personnel mines which remain to be destroyed are located at 6 arsenals under the control of the Ukrainian army.
24. In information provided by Ukraine its Article 7 transparency report submitted in 2017, Ukraine reported that 4,911,589 stockpiled anti-personnel mines remained to be destroyed as of 1 January 2017. Information was provided on the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine held. Ukraine also reported that 605 of the stockpiled anti-personnel mines that remain to be destroyed are in areas outside of Ukraine's effective control. In addition, Ukraine reported that, during the period 1 January 2016 to 1 January 2017, 652,840 stockpiled anti-personnel mines had been destroyed.
25. At the 8-9 June 2017 intersessional meetings, Ukraine indicated that in 2017, 356,640 PFM-1S mines had been destroyed and that 464,640 anti-personnel had been received by the Pavlograd Chemical Plant to be destroyed.
26. The President concluded that Ukraine had provided information on its efforts to implement its stockpile destruction programme, including a timeline for completion of the programme. While Ukraine has provided details on the latest agreement between the MoD, NSPA and the Pavlograd Chemical Plant, more details on plans for the destruction of the total number of remaining PFM-type stockpiled anti-personnel mines would be welcome
27. The President concluded that it would be welcome if Ukraine clarified the discrepancy of 14,824 between the number of stockpiled mines destroyed communicated at the 15MSP (667,664) and the number communicated through Ukraine's annual transparency report (652,840). It would be further welcome if Ukraine clarified (a) the total number of stockpiled anti-personnel mines destroyed by Ukraine and, (b) the total number of anti-personnel mines remaining to be destroyed as of September 2017.

Bulgaria

28. In its 2014 Article 7 transparency report **Bulgaria** reported that 500,590 stockpiled anti-personnel mines had been transferred from Greece to Gorni Lom, Bulgaria for the purposes of destruction. Information was provided on the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine. Bulgaria reported that the institution authorised by Bulgaria to receive the transfer was VIDEX JSC.
29. At the Convention's 2015 intersessional meetings, Bulgaria reported that, on 1 October 2014, when an explosion occurred at the VIDEX destruction plant, 197,600 anti-personnel mines were stored at the plant. Of this number, 6,986 anti-personnel mines were destroyed during the explosion or recovered and destroyed afterwards, and 190,614 anti-personnel mines remained. In its 2015 Article 7 transparency report, Bulgaria reported that 190,572 anti-personnel mines were stored at the plant. In its 2016 Article 7 transparency report, Bulgaria reported that 190,564 anti-personnel mines were stored at the plant. The President noted that the quantity of stockpiled anti-personnel mines reported stored by Bulgaria has decreased by 8 between 2015 and 2016 and that clarity on this issue and on the total number of stockpiled anti-personnel mines held by Bulgaria would be welcome.
30. At the 14MSP, Bulgaria reported that it had undertaken all legal measures needed to send the anti-personnel mines back to Greece and that the mines are kept in sealed and secured warehouses of the factory.
31. At the 8-9 June 2017 intersessional meetings, Bulgaria confirmed that there are no public or private entities in Bulgaria that are able to destroy the Greek anti-personnel mines and that its institutions stand ready to provide the necessary facilitation in organising the repatriation of the mines.
32. The President highlighted the importance of continued transparency on this issue and concluded that it was positive that Bulgaria has regularly provided information on stockpiled anti-personnel mines transferred to its territory for the purpose of destruction by another State Party and encouraged Bulgaria to continue doing so.

Oman

33. In information provided by Oman in 2017 in accordance with its Article 7 transparency obligations, **Oman** reported that 4,578 stockpiled anti-personnel mines were destroyed in 2015-2016. The destruction of these stockpiled anti-personnel leaves Oman with 10,682 stockpiled anti-personnel mines still to destroy. Oman indicated that in 2017 the destruction of the last 6,104 stockpiled anti-personnel mines was planned for 2018.
34. The President concluded that Oman had provided detailed information on its stockpiled anti-personnel mines, including types and quantity, and had communicated a plan for the completion of the destruction of these anti-personnel mines by its Article 4 deadline.

III. Information provided by States Parties on destruction of previously unknown stockpiled anti-personnel mines

35. Since the 15MSP, the following States Parties have provided updated information on the destruction of previously unknown stockpiled anti-personnel mines, in accordance with Maputo Action Plan, Action #7:
36. **Afghanistan** reported in its 2016 Article 7 transparency report that during the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016, 337 previously unknown stockpiled anti-personnel mines had been

destroyed by weapons and ammunition disposal (WAD) teams. Information was provided on the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine destroyed.

37. **Mauritania** reported in its 2016 Article 7 transparency report that, during 2016, the demining teams of the Engineer Corps discovered in the Wilaya of Tiris Zemour 3 anti-personnel mines and 1 anti-tank mine in three separate locations. These mines were destroyed on 28 December 2016 by open burning in accordance with IMAS.
38. **Palau** reported in its 2016 Article 7 transparency report that, during the period 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2016, 6 previously unknown stockpiled anti-personnel mines had been found and destroyed. These previously unknown stocks were discovered in Peleliu State in abandoned stores in the cave systems used during WWII.

UNOFFICIAL