



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Statement of the Netherlands
under agenda item 9 (e) on
Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines
Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Thank you Madam President,

The Netherlands much appreciates that the destruction of stock-piled anti-personnel mines under Article 4 is addressed this afternoon. We would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Presidency on this important topic.

We would first like to congratulate Oman on destroying its remaining stockpiles well within its deadline. We are very pleased to hear this good news today. It shows true commitment and dedication to this Convention.

We believe that stockpile destruction is a crucial step towards achieving our common objective to free the world from anti-personnel mines, as the destruction of these stockpiles is an important step in guaranteeing that they will not be used. In that process, it is important to address the challenges that we face in a transparent manner.

We would like to express gratitude toward Afghanistan for taking the initiative of immediately destroying its previously unknown stockpile of mines. With these actions, Afghanistan has proven to work towards a safer world.

The Netherlands welcomes Bulgaria and Greece's efforts in repatriating the stockpile of Greek-owned anti-personnel mines in order to move the process of destruction forwards.

At the same time, we have to acknowledge that two states parties have reported that they are still in the process of implementing Article 4 of the Convention and for those two States Parties, namely Greece and Ukraine, their deadline has expired for the implementation of article 4. We are encouraged by Greece's statement yesterday in which they indicated that progress to destroy the remaining stockpiles is well under way. We welcome the Greek efforts in this regard.

We would, however, like to reiterate the appeal, as was expressed by the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties, to those States Parties which are effectively in non-compliance with their article 4 obligations, to continue their efforts for the completion of their stockpile destruction obligations.

Because only if all remaining stockpiles of anti-personnel mines have been destroyed, we can guarantee that they at least will not be used again.

Thank you, Madam President.