

Intervention of the representative of the MFA of Ukraine  
Mr. Volodymyr Dziub

at the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention of the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction under agenda item # 15.

(19 September 2003, Bangkok)

Mr. Co-Chairmen,  
Ladies and Gentlemen!

May I start by expressing gratitude and appreciation to the Co-Chairs of APLs stockpiles destruction standing committee - representatives of Romania Mr. Radu Horumba and Switzerland Dr. René Haug for their tireless efforts in highlighting the necessity to solve the issue of PFN-type mines destruction in Ukraine and other countries.

Today I would like to provide an update of the APLs destruction in Ukraine. The project for the destruction of Ukraine's stock of 400,000 PMN type APLs started in January 2002 with the aim of disassembling the mines using industrial processes at the Donetsk Chemical Plant. This was the first step in destroying Ukraine's stockpile of above 6 million APLs. Canada was the Lead Nation for the project, which was supported by financial contributions from Hungary, Poland and the Netherlands. The NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) is the Executing Agency, implementing the project by establishing contracts with Ukraine's Ministry of Defence and Spivdruzhnist Scientific and Technical Centre (STC). Preparations at the Donetsk Chemical Plant included the refurbishment of buildings, installation of equipment and preparation of procedures. These were financed by the NATO PfP Trust Fund and were completed between February and June 2002. Mines were collected from 19 storage facilities throughout Ukraine and transported to Donetsk by Spivdruzhnist STC between May and July 2002. NATO's Secretary General, Lord Robertson, formally opened the process lines in July 2002 and full production began in September. Nine months later, the last landmine was destroyed at the closing ceremony on 27 May 2003. Demilitarization was carried out by reverse engineering of the mines using a combination of manual and automated techniques designed by Spivdruzhnist STC. Explosives recovered from the process were recycled to make commercial explosives for use by Ukraine industry. Plastics from the mines were recycled to manufacture children's toys, which may also be useful for mine-awareness programs.

The project has been completely successful and was finished within budget and six weeks ahead of schedule. The project has not only contributed to the creation of a safer world, but it has also contributed to employment in Donetsk and has laid the foundations for future demilitarization projects. Its success is a result of excellent cooperation between NAMSA, Governmental agencies of Ukraine, Spivdruzhnist STC, Donetsk Chemical Plant.

Thank you.