

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA TO THE UN  
OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

Check against delivery

**SEVENTH MEETING OF THE STATE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE  
PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER  
OF ANTI-PERSONAL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

ITEM 10: GENERAL EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

Mr. Dusko Uzunovski  
Minister Counsellor / DPR

*GENEVA, September 18, 2006*

Madam President,  
Excellencies,  
Colleagues,

Today, at the Seventh Meeting of the State Parties of the Ottawa Convention, on the behalf of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, I am honoured to declare that, in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, as of 15 September, 2006, my country has ensured the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines were known or suspected to be emplaced.

In doing so, we have become the first State Party in South Eastern Europe to have fulfilled its Article 5 obligations. Thus the Republic of Macedonia joins the group of other six State Parties that have earlier fulfilled their Article 5 obligations.

In the event that previously unknown mined areas are discovered in areas under the control or jurisdiction of my country, the Republic of Macedonia will:

- report such mined areas in accordance with its obligations under Article 7 and will use other informal means to share such information;
- ensure the effective exclusion of civilians in accordance with Article 5; and,
- destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in such mined areas as a matter of urgent priority, making its needs for assistance known to other States Parties, as appropriate.

The Republic of Macedonia is aware that its experience in completing the implementation of Article 5 may be useful for other States Parties and the emphasis here is more on smaller countries. Therefore, further elaborating on the Republic of Macedonia experience, we will offer a more detailed presentation in the context of Agenda Item No. 11.

Since the last Meeting of the Standing Committees in May this year, we have achieved another important goal. On July 10, 2006, the Republic of Macedonia destroyed all of the 4000 AP Mines that had been previously stocked for development of and training purposes.

These achievements are complementary with and are our direct contribution to the regional initiative to make South Eastern Europe a Region free of Anti-Personal Mines.

The Republic of Macedonia has made rapid practical steps directed towards long-term objectives. Our goal is to produce security in the Region. We are strongly determined to help change the old image of the Balkans and to create a future Region of stability, peace and prosperity.

My Government's position is that the constructive cooperation pursued thus far among the State Parties to the Ottawa Convention is a strategic tool in achieving the objectives set forth in the Convention. In our case, it is true that we have made our efforts to accomplish the results, but without fruitful and close cooperation with partner countries and donors these results could not be achieved. I would like to take this opportunity, to extend appreciation, on behalf of my Government, to all Governments for their support and assistance during the past years. Our gratitude as well to all other respected institutions that have helped us.

Madam President,

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate the strong conviction of my country's Delegation that the aim of a world free of mines is nonetheless attainable. The MBT is one of the few success stories among the disarmament-related conventions. The Republic of Macedonia is proud to be a part of this success story.

Thank you Madam President.