

Seventh Meeting of the States Parties
THE PROCESS OF ACTION IN IMPLEMENTING THE
OTTAWA CONVENTION

19/9 agenda

~~Ottawa Convention, International Meeting, Standing Committee~~

Geneva, 18 SEP 2006

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

2 Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

~~I feel very honored to be here today, among such a distinguished audience from countries all over the world, linked to the common objective of building a safer world by eradicating anti-personnel mines.~~

3 The Cyprus Republic, considering its obligations as they emanate from the Ottawa Convention, has already drawn up, and communicated to all Member States, a National Plan of Implementation with a specific timetable.

4 According to the National Plan, the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel (AP) mines is to be completed by July 2007, whereas the destruction of mines laid in minefields by July 2013. A detailed time schedule can be seen on the projected transparency.

5 According to the time schedule of the National Plan, the destruction of 18.000 stockpiled AP mines is foreseen for the year 2006, as well as 280 laid ones in 2 minefields of the National Guard.

6 Since our last briefing (May 2006) at the Permanent Committee, the Republic of Cyprus, being consistent with the timeframe of the National plan, proceeded with the destruction of 14,352 stockpiled A/P mines out of a total of 18,000 for the year 2006 (80%). Moreover, work is still in progress for the removal of A/P mines from two minefields of the National Guard. Work has been completed by 70%. The above work is monitored so that is completed successfully by the end of this year.

7 For the fulfillment of all obligations of the Republic of Cyprus, in accordance with the Ottawa Convention, the following have to be implemented:

- [a. The destruction of 15.548 stockpiled AP mines by 1st of July 2007, thus completing the destruction of all stockpiled AP mines in Cyprus.
- [b. The destruction of 3.801 AP mines laid in 14 minefields under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus, by the 1st of July 2013.

8 The work progress for the implementation of the Ottawa Convention is funded by the Republic of Cyprus. All the work for the removal and destruction of AP mines is being conducted by a specially trained military team.

9 For the time being, the time schedule of the National Plan for implementing the Ottawa Convention proceeds as planned, and it is expected to be successfully completed within the specified time frame.

10 ~~In concluding,~~ ^{In concluding,} Mr. Chairman, I would like to assure you, that, being fully aware of the human suffering caused by the mine problem all over the world, [we remain committed to the full implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of anti-personnel mines and their destruction, ~~and we request your intervention so that the Ottawa Convention be implemented to the whole of Cyprus.~~ and all the territory of the Republic of Cyprus to be mine free.

Thank you Mr Chairman