

SERBIA

Madame President, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to inform this forum at the 7th Meeting of State Parties that the 14 September 2006 was the day when the anti personal mines stockpile destruction project in Serbia reached the figure of 1.000.000 destroyed mines.

In comparison with the results attained until the Zagreb Meeting in December last year, the APM stockpile destruction process in Serbia has made a significant progress to this day. We have firm reasons to believe that the projected goal of the total destruction of stockpiled APM by 31 May 2007 is reachable, bearing in mind the results made so far which are more than 75% of the total number. It is our belief that, holding up the same pace from the recent period, Serbia is on its way to achieve the Article 4 obligations almost one year before the deadline set by Mine Ban Treaty, which is March 2008.

It is important to emphasize that all stockpiled APM that remained at the territory of the Republic of Montenegro are still in the process of destruction in the Technical Overhaul Works Kragujevac in Serbia, which proves the continuations of the joint activities towards implementation of the Article 4, and that the dissolution of the State Union will not affect the cooperation between two republics.

Within this project there is a process of demilitarizing APM and conversion of its explosive for the commercial purposes, which is conducted with the financial support of the Government of Luxembourg.

It is important noting, once again, that the APM destruction project in Serbia has entered its technical implementation since 17 August 2005 with large support and assistance from stakeholders from Canada, Austria and the experts provided by NATO Maintenance Supply Agency.

Thank you,

Geneva, 20 September 2006

Mr. Vladan Lazovic, Second Secretary