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# UKRAINE

*Seventh Meeting of the States Parties of the  
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,  
Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of  
Anti-personnel Mines on Their Destruction*

## STATEMENT

by Mr. YEVHEN R. BERSHEDA

Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations  
Office and other International Organizations at Geneva

21 September 2006

**Ms. President,**

Since I have the floor the first time, please allow me to join the previous speakers in extending to you my sincere congratulations upon your assumption of the President of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties of the Ottawa Convention.

I am sure that your professionalism and wise leadership in this Meeting will help identifying new ideas and approaches to the strengthening and improving the Convention effectiveness and its implementation. I would like to assure you, Ms. President, that the Government of Ukraine is ready to provide its full support and co-operation for achieving of these common goals.

**Ms. President,  
Distinguished delegates,**

First of all I would like to stress once again that Ukraine aligns itself with the Statement delivered on behalf of the EU. At the same time I cannot but use the opportunity to take the floor today as a Head of the Delegation of Ukraine – a member-state to the Ottawa Convention, which Ukraine signed in February 1999 and since that time has put every effort to observe its provisions.

In my intervention I intend to focus on some aspects of the implementation process of the Convention in Ukraine particularly on destroying stockpiled anti-personal mines.

Being in line with the objectives of the Convention, Ukraine has taken significant step towards destroying of APL. Let me recall that well before the ratification of the Convention by the Parliament Ukraine destroyed more than 400 000 PMN mines.

As of today we face more challenging tasks to be resolved in order to be in compliance with the Convention's provisions as its fully-fledged member.

In this regard I would like to express gratitude to the European Commission, since the ratification in 2005 of the Convention by the Ukrainian Parliament became possible thanks to the successful negotiations between Ukraine and the European Commission and launching cooperation on stockpiles destruction in our country. We strongly believe this project will become a concrete contribution to the strengthening effective cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union as well as to the global efforts addressing the APL problem.

Ukraine renders a great importance to successful realization of the PFM destruction project in accordance with the Convention requirements.

We are very close to complete the preparation process and it is expected that the first practical PFM destruction will take place in the nearest future.

Being abided first of all by its commitments under the Convention, Ukraine is opened to constructive dialogue to meet with timely implementation of the Convention's crucial provisions on destruction of all types of the APL stockpiled on its territory, mine-clearance, rehabilitation and reintegration of the landmine victims.

It should be mentioned that the majority of the conventional munitions including APL currently stockpiled in Ukraine consists of ones inherited from the former Soviet Union, which were transported to Ukraine during the soviet troops withdrawal from East European countries. For the time being Ukraine is facing this problem alone.

Ukraine is known to possess enormous stockpiles of PFM type APLs (over 6 mln.). And the scope of problem related to the APL stockpiles is growing. In particular we expect to solve the problem on utilizing 700 000 mines of other types.

It should be taken into account that each year Ukraine destroys about 50 000 explosive remnants of the Second World War.

In this respect we count on effective cooperation particularly with the European Commission, to enable Ukraine to fulfill the relevant obligations under the Convention.

Thank you for your attention.