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**STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS FOR THE PROCESS OF ACTION IN  
IMPLEMENTING THE OTTAWA CONVENTION (Article 4)**

Ottawa Convention, Eighth Meeting of the States Parties (8MSP),  
Jordan, Dead Sea, 18-22 November 2007

Your Royal Highness,  
Mr. President,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus was in the first group of countries which signed the Ottawa Convention. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus, sharing the sensitivities expressed worldwide regarding the destruction of mines, signed the Ottawa Convention in 1997 and ratified it on 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2003. The Convention was put into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2003. According to the provisions of the Convention, the Republic of Cyprus had the obligation by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007 to destroy all stockpiled antipersonnel mines and by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 the Republic of Cyprus should withdraw and destroy all antipersonnel mines, laid in minefields situated in areas under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

Since our last briefing in April 2007, on Article 4, at the Intercessional Meeting, Standing Committee, in Geneva, the Republic of Cyprus has proceeded in the same year to the destruction of the last 15,548 stored AP mines.

The Republic of Cyprus committed to the task and the fulfillment of its obligations, in accordance with Article 4 of the Ottawa Convention, successfully succeeded in destroying the stockpiled of the AP mines, before the deadline of the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007.

To mark the completion of the destruction of all stockpiled antipersonnel mines, the Government of Cyprus on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007, organized in a range outside Nicosia, a ceremony where foreign delegates and officials from overseas and Cyprus were invited and participated.

The last stockpiled antipersonnel mine was destroyed during this ceremony. Since July 2007, Cyprus is included in the state parties of the Convention without any antipersonnel mines in its stores.

The Republic of Cyprus, an advocate of mine-free world is determined to proceed with full implementation of the Ottawa Convention, clearing and destroying all mines from its territory in order to consolidate peace and security in the island of Cyprus.

Nicosia 19 November 2007