

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
8TH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE MINE BAN CONVENTION
On Agenda item 11 (b): Stockpile destruction
Dead Sea, 18-22 November 2007

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we have mentioned time and again, one of the most important and fundamental obligations of a State party under the Convention is the implementation of article 4 which requires the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines. Despite the fact that Indonesia has a relatively small number of stockpiles, and has never produced nor deployed any mines, Indonesia takes its obligations under the Convention very seriously.

The very fact that Indonesia has a limited number of stockpiles, helps us in implementing the provisions of article 4 much easier, as there are no mines area to clear nor production facilities to convert. Hence, by the year 2011, Indonesia aims to fulfill the primary obligation of destroying stockpiles as stipulated by article 4.

Mr. Chairman,

Soon after the Government of Indonesia has ratified the Convention, the Government has established an inter-agency team, which is coordinated by the Department of Defense. The team has been dispatched to regional military commands across Indonesia to count, identify and verify the actual number of anti-personnel land mines that Indonesia possesses. Based on the report of the team, Indonesia has about 16 thousands of anti-personnel mines in its stockpile which spread at a numbers of regional military commands. These are the numbers that will be reported in the transparency report that Indonesia will submit within six months after the Convention comes into force. The transparency report is currently being prepared.

With the actual number of stockpile that Indonesia possesses, the Government has decided that from the figure of 16 thousands anti-personnel mines, around 5 thousand shall be retained for the purpose of training and education, as allowed under article 3 of the Convention.

The Government of Indonesia is hence in the process of preparing a destruction time-table plan which is due to be implemented within 4 years after the entry into force. The purpose of the plan is to destroy the remaining 11 thousands of stockpiles possessed within three or four stages. The detailed number and the time table plan of the destruction are to be elaborated in the transparency report.

As for destruction of stockpiles obligation, Indonesian military has owned the established operating standard procedure to destroy the explosive and mines with safety and environmental standard.

Finally, in the process of fulfilling its treaty obligations, including the destruction of the stockpiles, Indonesia would be happy to share and learn from the experiences and expertise of other State Parties, in particular regarding the methods used for destruction, and the applicable safety and environmental standards to be taken into consideration.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.
