

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION
(AGENDA ITEM 11.B)
(MONDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2007)**

Thank you your Royal Highness,

My delegation would like to present a brief update on Turkey's stockpile destruction.

I am happy to announce that the Turkish Armed Forces Munitions Disposal Facility has been officially inaugurated on 8 November 2007.

Stockpile destruction needs to be carried out with utmost care to the environment. Our facility complies with the European Council Directive 2000/76/EC on the Incineration of Hazardous Waste. Its certification and qualification process took longer than foreseen. It has been built in accordance with the Agreement between Turkey and the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA). The facility is located in Central Anatolia.

I would like to inform the distinguished delegates that the facility is operational and running at full capacity. We have a short video presentation regarding the facility. We will show it at the end of my statement.

Interested Representatives of States fulfilling their article 4 obligations and relevant international organizations such as the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), may visit the Turkish Armed Forces Munitions Disposal Facility in order to gather first hand information about our experience.

In the future, State Parties to the Ottawa Convention may want to use our facility. We are ready to examine any such requests once we have completed our stockpile destruction.

Before the facility has become operational, stockpile destruction was carried out by open-air detonation method. In 2006, 94.111 more mines were destroyed with this method. The number of stockpiled anti-personnel landmines currently stands at around 2.9 million.

In conclusion, unless unforeseen technical difficulties occur due to the operation of the Turkish Armed Forces Munitions Disposal Facility, we hope to be able to fulfil our obligation under Article 4, using if necessary other available methods.

Could we have now the video please.

I thank you.