

Indonesia's Intervention Stockpile Destruction November 26, 2008

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to reiterate our commitment to achieve the ultimate goal for a world free of landmines. In order to achieve that goal, Indonesia views that it is essential and fundamental for the states party to fully implement article 4 of the Convention.

Mr. President,

Allow me to inform an update on what has been achieved by Indonesia on its destruction process.

As stated in our initial transparency report, Indonesia has about 16.500 anti-personnel mines of different types. Out of this figure, less than 5 thousands shall be retained for the purpose of training and education, as allowed under Article 3 of the Convention. This figure is confirmed by the national team which consists of related agencies and has a task to count, identify and verify the number of anti-personnel land mines that Indonesia possesses. This national team has been dispatched to regional military commands across Indonesia. In order to find the total figure of landmines that Indonesia owned, the team has begun its work since June 2007 and completed in August 2007.

Indonesia is committed to destroy the 11.603 mines. Indonesia became a State Party on 1 August 2007 and hence, the obligation to destroy the stockpile as stipulated by article 4 should be completed by 1 August 2011.

At the beginning, in our national plan, Indonesian government had set up a time-table plan for destruction which is due to be implemented within 4 years in three phases. This time table had been planned due to the consideration that our anti personnel mines stockpiled are not concentrated in one area but have been spread into regional military commands across Indonesia.

However, there is a strong will from all Indonesian stakeholders to destroy our anti personnel mine stockpiled, I'm pleased to inform you that we've successfully fulfilled our obligation under article 4, to destroy our stockpile this year. This accomplishment is 3 years early than the deadline set out under article 4.

The first phase, as we already reported earlier during the Standing Committee meeting of Indonesia's destruction program was conducted on 10 and 11 February 2008 and destroyed 709 mines in Pamengpeuk, Garut, West Java.

The second phase, the destruction was held in Lumajang and Madura, in the part of Eastern Java on 7 August 2008. Total stockpiles that have been destructed are 1297 mines.

The third phase of destruction, was conducted this month, on 11,12, and 13 November (just two weeks ago) in three areas, Medan, North Sumatra; Ketawang, Central Java and Batujajar, West Java. In the last phase, total mines that has been destructed are 9597 mines.

We are pleased that the representative of one foreign embassy in Jakarta was present and witnessing our destruction process in Ketawang, Central Java.

Mr. President,

Although Indonesia has been accomplished its destruction process in advance of its deadline, we believe that sharing experience and learning a new method of destruction which applies to the international standard, is still applicable and should be continued in the future. We are looking forward to work with international community in this regards.

I thank you Mr. President.