

CYPRUS

STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS FOR THE PROCESS OF ACTION IN
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OTTAWA CONVENTION (Article 5)

Ottawa Convention - Meeting of the States Parties Geneva
24 - 28 November 2008

Mr President,

Andreas Georgiou

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor ~~(once again)~~ for the Republic of Cyprus to participate in the 9TH Meeting of the States Parties, to the Convention of Anti - Personnel Mines, which strives to achieve the common goal of building a safer world, through the eradication of all antipersonnel mines, whether in Stockpiles or laid in active Minefields.

Since our last briefing in June 2008, at the Meeting of the Standing Committees in Geneva, the Republic of Cyprus has proceeded with steady steps in fulfilling its obligations, according to the provisions of Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention, strictly following the requirements of the Country's National Plan.

The additional progress, concerns the destruction of (392) AP mines, which were removed from 2 further minefields of the National Guard.

The work that remains, according to our time schedule within the National Plan, involves the destruction of 3224 AP mines laid in 10 ~~final~~ ^{final remaining} minefields, in areas under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus. These activities must be completed by the 1st of July 2013.

Moreover, the destruction process of AP mines laid in minefields is not impeded by any circumstances, since the field activities are monitored and regulated appropriately, until the aforementioned objective is successfully accomplished.

To this end, our demining teams are supported technically and financially. Thus, suitable technical means ^{will be} ~~at~~ put at their disposal whenever necessary, according to the emerging difficulties within the field. This demining methodology has proved to be efficient from the beginning of our operations and continues, therefore, to be adopted by our experts.

The Republic of Cyprus, therefore, can assure all States Parties once again, that the deadline for the completion of the demining activities within laid minefields of the National Guard will be met, in the same manner that has been accomplished in the past with our stockpiled mines.

Finally, being fully aware of the human suffering caused from the existence and use of AP mines, we hope that a similar policy will be implemented in the areas which are not under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus. Only in this manner will it be feasible, to construct and nurture the feelings of safety and confidence throughout the entire island.

Thank you for your attention