

**Sudan Statement on the Stockpiled APM Destruction
Presented by Mr. Al Awad El-bashir,
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The Sudan has declared a total of 14,485 different kinds of AP mines under the control of the Government of National Unity (GoNU). Types of AP mines in the stockpiles are detailed in the Article 7 reports submitted by the Sudan. The dead line for Sudan for the destruction of stockpiled AP mines is 30 April 2008.

In compliance with Article 4 of the Ottawa Convention, the GONU destroyed the first batch of 4,488 stockpiled anti-personnel mines on 30 April 2007. The official destruction ceremony of the first batch of 4,488 various types of antipersonnel mines took place on 30 April 2007 in Khartoum-North. In addition to the Minister of National Defence, the stockpile destruction ceremony was attended by a large number of high ranking government military and civilian officials, the UN, diplomatic community, civil society organizations, and independent media.

It is worth mentioning that with limited technical assistance from UNDP, the GoNU undertook the stockpile destruction with its own resources and with its own technical expertise and in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).

With technical support from UNDP, the GONU and Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) are in the preparation process to destroy the remaining stockpiled AP mines before the deadline of April 2008.

A key challenge in the stockpile destruction is that the APMs have to be collected from various locations in the field, posing a big logistical challenge. But we hope that we will overcome this challenge.

At the end I would like to confirm that the government of the Sudan is committed to meet the deadline. We would like to welcome any financial and technical assistance in this regard.

Thank you.