



BACKGROUND DOCUMENT #2

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR STATES PARTIES THAT HAVE RECENTLY FULFILLED OR ARE IN THE PROCESS OF FULFILLING OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 4 OF THE CONVENTION

Meeting of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction May 25, 2009

Background:

The *Nairobi Action Plan*, adopted at the Convention's First Review Conference in 2004, states that the States Parties that have yet to complete their anti-personnel stockpile destruction programmes will:

Action #9: Establish the type, quantity and, if possible, lot numbers of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed, and report this information as required by Article 7.

Action #10: Establish appropriate national and local capacities to meet their Article 4 obligations.

Action #11: Strive to complete their destruction programmes if possible in advance of their four-year deadlines.

Action #12: Make their problems, plans progress and priorities for assistance known in a timely manner to States Parties and relevant organisations and disclose their own contributions to their programmes in situations where financial, technical or other assistance is required to meet stockpile destruction obligations.

At the 9MSP, with a view to giving due attention to cases of non-compliance with Article 4 and to preventing future instances of non-compliance, the States Parties warmly welcomed the proposal submitted by Lithuania and Serbia on ensuring the full implementation of Article 4 and agreed to encourage States Parties, as appropriate, to implement the recommendations contained therein. These recommendations included the following:

- Non-compliant States Parties should act in a committed and transparent way, immediately communicating, preferably in a form of a *note verbale* addressed to all States Parties, the reasons, which should be extraordinary, for failing to comply and providing a date and plan to ensure compliance as soon as possible, including an expected completion date. They should commit national resources to fulfill their obligations and, if relevant, actively pursue assistance.
- States Parties in the process of implementing Article 4 should communicate to other States Parties, through annual transparency reports, at every meeting of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction and at every Meeting of the States Parties, plans to implement Article 4, successively reporting increasing progress made towards the fulfillment of Article 4 obligations.

To help assess the application of the above recommendations as well as the relevant aspects of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, the Co-Chairs invite States Parties that are in the process of fulfilling Article 4 obligations or that have recently fulfilled Article 4 obligations to make presentations on 25 May on the basis of the following questions:

A. Questions for States Parties that are in the process of fulfilling their obligations under Article 4 and that have missed their deadlines for destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines

1. What are the circumstances that have prevented your State from complying with its obligations on time?
2. What steps has your State taken to proceed in destroying all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed? How many mines have been destroyed and how many remain to be destroyed?
3. What is your State's plan, including time-lines and a prospective end date, for complying as soon as possible?

B. Questions for States Parties that are in the process of fulfilling their obligations under Article 4:

1. What steps has your State taken to establish the type, quantity, and, if possible, lot numbers of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed?
2. What appropriate national and local capacities have been established to meet your Article 4 stockpile destruction obligations?
3. What is the status of your State's stockpile destruction programme? (How many mines have been destroyed and remain to be destroyed? What is your time table for the destruction of these mines?)
4. What, if any, difficulties do you face in the destruction of your stockpiled anti-personnel mines? If relevant, what are your priorities for external financial, technical or other assistance?

C. Questions for States Parties that have recently fulfilled their obligations under Article 4:

1. What steps did your State take to establish the type, quantity, and, if possible, lot numbers of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed?
2. What methods were used to destroy the stockpiled mines, where were the mines destroyed and what safety and environmental standards were observed in the destruction process?
3. How many mines of which types were destroyed and during which time period?