

**Tenth Meeting of the States Parties to the
Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines
Geneva, 29 November – 3 December 2010**

ICRC Statement on stockpile destruction

Thank you Mr. President,

We would like to thank the four States that provided us with an update today on the status of their plans to destroy their remaining stocks of AP mines and to rectify their inability to meet their article 4 deadlines.

We are particularly glad to hear about the major progress by Turkey with regards to the completion of the destruction of 95% of its stocks. However, it is unfortunate that Turkey has not yet destroyed the remaining stocks of ADAM mines. We understand Turkey is in the process of negotiating a contract with a third party for the destruction of these mines and we hope that it will do its utmost to finalise this process as a matter of urgency and to ensure that the stock of ADAM mines are destroyed before our next meeting.

With regard to Belarus, we are very pleased to hear that the third tendering process (three seems to be the lucky number) was successful in selecting a compliant company, which should start the actual destruction of the stockpiled of 3 million PFM mines in the very near future. We would like to thank all parties involved, and in particular the European Commission, for having persevered and shown flexibility during this third tendering process. We hope that this positive momentum is maintained and that no effort is spared to start the actual destruction of these mines early in the New Year.

We would like to thank Greece for clarifying the state of play concerning their stocks of ADAM mines and confirming that these have been destroyed in 2008. Similarly, we commend Greece for trying to clarify whether the 40% of mines transferred to Bulgaria for destruction were destroyed in their entirety and we hope that Greece will be able to share some good news on this issue in the very near future. This being said, the ICRC is very concerned by the lack of progress this year in the destruction of the remaining 60 % of Greek's stockpiles. At the last Standing Committee meeting, Greece announced that it was about to choose a company which will only have 6 months to destroy the remaining stockpiles. Today, Greece announced that this crucial step did not materialise and that we are to expect yet further delays. We urge increased efforts at the political level by Greece in order to rectify this situation and to put higher priority to the destruction of their stocks of AP mines and their obligations under this Convention.

As concerns the Ukraine, we welcome its announcement that funds will be available to it under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument in 2011....

(content of Ukraine's statement tomorrow is unclear)

It is of the utmost importance for the credibility of the Convention that all possible avenues are employed by the Ukraine in order to complete destruction of its 6 million stocks in a much shorter time frame than the 6 years currently being proposed.