

Statement
of the Head of the delegation of Ukraine at the meeting of the AP Mine
Ban Convention Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction, Director-
General of the Arms Control – Military and Technical Cooperation
Directorate, Ambassador Oleksandr Nykonenko
Transparency policy of Ukraine enhancing the Article III of the
Convention pursuing the Action N57 of the
Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014
(21 June 2010, Geneva)

Dear colleagues,

I would like to mention that Ukraine holds firm the transparency policy pursuing the Ottawa Convention. As an example of enhancing this policy I would like to draw your attention to the fact that Ukraine submitted the Annual national reports with regard to the Article 4 and Article 3 in April 2010. It is done by Ukraine on the regular basis to inform our partners in time and openly on the implementation process of the Convention in our country.

Distinguished delegates,

Every year in accordance with the Article 3 of the Convention Ukraine declares its stockpiled anti-personnel mines defined for the training purposes in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques.

Taking all necessary steps to comply with a Convention provisions Ukraine encourages the high degree of transparency. At the same time I would like to note that the process of the APLs destruction requires the scientific approach to develop the modern and safe technology on disassembling and destruction of each APL sub-type explosive device.

Being asked about *the existing mine detection, clearance or destruction techniques that have been developed in Ukraine* I would like to inform you on the following.

The destruction of the detected APLs, as well as other explosive devices is performed in Ukraine by the mine detecting and clearance detachments, deployed at the defined area to execute the explosive method of the mine clearance. As well, the detected APLs could be transported to the special areas for their further destruction.

After the national ratification in 2005 and fully-fledged accession to the Convention in 2006 Ukraine declared 1.950 mines of PMN-type, which fall under the Article 3. These mines are used exclusively to train the personnel in mine detection, mine clearance and mine destruction techniques.

In this regard to comply with the Article 7 of the Convention Ukraine distributes annually the national reports to enhance the transparency measures and inform all the State Parties to the Convention on the proper use of the above mentioned APLs.

Ukraine informed the member-states that 1.727 APLs were destroyed in 2007 using the explosive method of mine clearance. This action was stated in the National report 2007 and mentioned during the meeting of the Standing Committee in 2008. The decision to reduce the quantity of the aforementioned APLs stockpiles was taken after the prior meeting of Standing Committee of the Convention.

These mines were used to test the *mine man safety suit* and other protecting devices to secure the mine clearance operations, as well as to train the students of the Military Engineer's Institute at the Training Center of the engineer troops of Ukraine and Mine Clearing Training Center of the Armed Forces of Ukraine based in the city of Kamyanets-Podilskiy (Khmelnyskiy region).

In order to continue the training and testing activity 24 mines were used in 2009. In conclusion Ukraine possesses 187 APLs (they are 67 mines of PMN-type and 120 mines of PMN-2), which fall under the article 7 and 3 of the Convention.

Dear colleagues,

Ukraine has developed its own technology of the multipurpose destruction of the anti-personnel mines, stockpiled in Ukraine, which are to be eliminated under the provisions of the Ottawa convention.

The APLs destruction technology is performed and mostly developed at the State enterprises of the Ministry of Industry of Ukraine and the National Space Agency of Ukraine.

I would like to inform you on the main technologies of APLs destruction, which are currently tested and used in Ukraine:

1) *“State Enterprise Research-Industrial Complex “Pavlograd Chemical Plant” submitted to the National Space Agency of Ukraine (NSAU).*

Since 2008 the National Space Agency of Ukraine financed entirely by the State budget took measures to equip the specialized destruction area at the premises of the Pavlograd chemical plant and to elaborate the technology of the destruction of the engineer's ammunitions and the PFM-1 mines.

The Pavlograd's specialists finished their work on the disassembling and destruction technology of the anti-personal explosive device KSF-1, which is used for the PFM-1 mines. The safe operational and emission control regimes of the destruction facilities and equipment were tested at Pavlograd plant as well.

Unfortunately, during these last two years the lack of the appropriate funding did not allow the Pavlograd's specialists to modernize the installation for the solid waste destruction, as well as to build up the special site for the disassembling of the heavy ammunitions and PFM-1 mines at this plant.

As of February 1, 2010 the amount of 2.145 anti-personal explosive devices KSF-1 were destroyed at the test site of the Pavlograd plant, which corresponds to 154 440 mines of PFM-1 type.

The upgraded Pavlograd rotary kiln is capable to run up to 1 000 000 mines of the PFM type a year. Moreover, in order to speed up the elimination process of the PFM-1 mines it was decided to request the international technical assistance aiming to obtain the second incinerator for the solid waste destruction or acquire the rotary kiln produced by the Swedish company Dynasafe. These measures would double the destruction capacity of the APLs at Pavlograd plant and minimize timing of the destruction process up to 3-4 years and secure the environmental issues.

2) *Shostka State Scientific and Research Institute of the Chemical Products and the equipment of the German company GTZ.*

The Ukrainian specialists work on receiving of the special equipment to disassemble the multiple types of the ammunitions (engineer's, aviation's and jet projectiles), as well as PFM-1 mines. This equipment is the property of the German company GTZ and stored nowadays at Shostka Chemical Institute. It was produced under the project of the European Commission on the destruction of the PFM-1 mines in Ukraine, which was suspended in 2007. According to the preliminary results of the negotiations with the management of the GTZ Company and our European Commission partners the aforementioned equipment could be rendered to Ukraine in the nearest future.

3) *Ejection of the APLs into the closed water reservoir and ground clearance.*

The national military experts suggest that some parts of the APLs stockpiles could be destroyed by using the lifting of the special mine grounds, including the areas of their stockpiling. It might be performed when the APLs are defined as a non-transportable. To this matter all of the PFM mines within the engineer's cassette KSF-1 type and KSF-1S type are brought together and stored at the single arsenal site.

During the last year and a half the engineer detachments of the Ukrainian Armed Forces destroyed 2.016 mines of the PFM type using the method of the ejection into the closed water reservoir. It is planned to destroy 2.800 using the same method until the end of 2010. This method of the APLs destruction considered to be the environmentally friendly, but at the same time it does not allow to eliminate the large number of the stockpiles.

4) *The APLs destruction research activity.*

Despite the number of efficient technologies on APLs destruction Ukraine continues to research and test its new methods. In this context, the State enterprise "Ukroboronservis" asked the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine to conduct the research activity on elimination of the PFM mines at the Centre for the ammunition destruction "UOS-DM" based in Gruzevitsya village, Khmelnytskyi region. It is considered to increase the tempo of APLs destruction, however these tests have not been started yet.

Dear colleagues,

Being asked about *the trainings of the clearing mine personnel and to what standard* I would like to mention the following.

The Training center of the engineer troops of Ukraine (Mine Clearing Training Center of the Armed Forces of Ukraine) based in the city of Kamyanets-Podilskiy (Khmelnytskyi region) trains the personnel to detect, deactivate and destruct the APLs in accordance with the following three levels of practice:

I level of practice – the training of soldiers and sergeants for the mine clearing detachment (executors);

II level of practice – the training of the commanders (officers) for the mine clearing detachment and dog handlers squads (detector dog handlers);

III level of practice – the training of the commanders (officers) for the demining operations management.

Moreover, the additional coaching of I and II levels of practice is provided for the ISAF peacekeepers to participate in the NATO-led security mission in Afghanistan. The trainings of the level III started June 7, 2010 to

prepare the humanitarian demining specialists for Tajikistan Mine Action Center (2 persons).

3. I would like to inform you that 4. 172 professionals were trained during the last 10 years within the period 2001-2010 to fulfill the purposes of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Emergency Situation, Interior Ministry and Security Service of Ukraine. In particular, Kamyanets-Podilskiy Mine Clearing Training Center has trained the specialists of the:

- 3.269 persons (I level of practice);
- 879 persons (II level of practice);
- 24 persons (III level of practice).

In a peacetime Kamyanets-Podilskiy Mine Clearing Training Center provides trainings in accordance with the international standards, namely UN Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (with regard to the provisions of the Law of Ukraine № 2281-IV dated 22.12.2004) and UN International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).

2. The NATO standards STANAG are used to train the specialist, who participate in the NATO-led peacekeeping operations.

3. The standards of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and State Standards of Ukraine (DSTU) are compulsory to train the mine clearing specialists in Ukraine.

Up to 50 commander officers, trained as deminers, graduate the Military Engineer's Institute in Kamyanets-Podilskiy every year, as well as Mine Clearing Training Center trains 120 soldiers-minesweepers (sappers) annually.

Thank you.