



Intersessional Meetings of the Standing Committees

Geneva, 21-25 June 2010

***Standing Committee on the General Status and
Operation of the Convention***

***Update on Jordan's Retention of Anti-Personnel
Mines In Accordance with Article 3***

COMMENTS BY

Jordan Delegation

Co-Chairs,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Jordan last reported in 2008 to the Standing Committee on its use of retained mines according to Article 3 of the Convention, as well as reporting on their use in our Article 7 report that year.

I would like to mention that prior to 2007, the type and quantity of Jordan's retained mines remained unchanged, as no mines were used for any purpose. However, in 2007 out of the 1000 mines originally retained by Jordan, a total of 50 mines were used for the purpose of mine detection training.

We would like to take the opportunity at this time to provide the Standing Committee with a further update on Jordan's use of retained mines.

In 2008, NPA-Jordan began to execute the demining of the 104km long mine belt along Jordan's northern border. As reported by Jordan in our Article 5 statement earlier this week, to ensure that we meet our mine clearance deadline by May 2012, NPA stepped up the pace of its clearance operations by increasing the number of deminers (up to 90 not including support staff) and mine detection dogs (up to 10 teams) working at the northern border mine clearance project. NPA is also providing training to an additional five MDD teams to work on the Jordan Valley Sampling and Verification Project.

Jordan would like to report that a further 50 mines have been used for the purpose of mine detection training for these new deminers and mine detection dog teams. Training is taking place in the north of Jordan for the Northern Border Project as well as for the Jordan Valley Sampling and Verification Project.

The MDD teams are trained by first creating a sample mine field using a small number of retained mines of the same type the MDD teams will be expected to encounter. The mines are placed in the ground two months prior to the training. The training is then carried out by the MDD teams in order for the dogs to learn to recognize the scent of those particular mines.

Presently, the number of mines retained by Jordan is 900. Jordan may continue to use mines retained under Article 3 in the future, for the purpose of training in mine detection, mine clearance or destruction techniques and further training.

Thank you Co Chairs.