

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**
Developments in Ukraine after Cartagena Second Review
Conference with regard to the implementation Article IV of the Ottawa
Convention
(21 June 2010, Geneva)

Dear colleagues,

I would like to welcome the delegates of the meeting of the Ottawa Convention Standing Committee and wish all work fruitful.

Let me thank Co-chairs of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction, Ambassadors of Bulgaria and Indonesia for the invitation to speak before the participants of the meeting.

Distinguished delegates,

Since Ukraine gained its independence our country was pursued active and consistent policy aimed at strengthening global disarmament and non-proliferation regimes. Having voluntarily forsworn the third largest nuclear arsenal in the world in 1994, Ukraine is taking the steady course to disarmament.

Adhering to the active position in arms control and disarmament and recognizing its responsibility before the people of Ukraine and the international community to destroy the inhumane arms, such as anti-personnel land mines Ukraine acceded to the Ottawa Convention in 2006 and thus committed itself to get rid of the existing APL on its territory until June 1, 2010.

In accordance with the procedures and recommendations of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction Ukraine informed all State Parties in a *note verbale* of 18 May, 2010 that it would not be able to implement the provisions of Article IV of the Convention to destroy the stockpiled anti-personnel mines by the 1 June 2010 deadline.

Since there is no extension possible for the deadline of the Article IV this outcome could not be regarded as an unexpected information to the State Parties to the Convention and non-governmental organizations. Therefore, Ukraine since 2008 has been repeatedly declaring on bilateral and multilateral levels its inability to fulfill its obligations under the Article IV without international assistance. Unfortunately, I have to note with regret that Ukraine's appeals remained neutral.

Distinguished delegates,

It is well-known that Ukraine inherited enormous stockpiles of ammunition and military equipment of the former Soviet Armed Forces, including those, which were transferred from its bases in the countries of Eastern and Central Europe. These arsenals have dangerous impact on population and surrounding environment.

As of today, Ukraine faces a number of large-scale and urgent tasks to reduce weaponry and ammunition stockpiles existing on its territory. Among the most important projects in this area are:

- the destruction of hundred of thousands of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and almost half a million tons of heavy ammunitions in the framework of NATO/PfP Trust Fund;
- the elimination of about 16 thousand tons of liquid rocket fuel components (*melange*) within the OSCE joint project;
- the elimination of the solid rocket propellant under the Ukrainian-U.S. Umbrella Agreement of October 25, 1993.

It is also important for Ukraine to take effective measures to resolve the current problem on the clearing its territory from the explosive remnants of World War I and World War II, because every year dozens of civilians become their innocent victims. Ukraine and OSCE work together under joint Cross-Dimensional Economic-Environmental/Politico-Military Programme to clean-up the areas contaminated with explosive remnants of war (ERW) near the cities of Kerch and Sevastopol in Crimea and Bila Tserkva near Kyiv.

The destruction of millions of anti-personnel land mines that falls under the Ottawa Convention is a constituent part of the wide-ranging disarmament process, which is underway in Ukraine.

This "heritage" along with expenses on its gradual destruction requires everyday expenditure to provide its safe storage and security, accounting and social spending etc. Therefore these activities are heavy

burden for the National budget of Ukraine and demand substantial engagement of human resources.

Once again I would like to outline the factors that hamper current implementation of the Convention and inform you on the steps, which are taken by Ukraine to resolve the problems of the present situation, as well as to discuss the further joint actions to ensure the fulfillment by Ukraine of its obligations in the nearest future.

Distinguished delegates,

Prior to the national ratification of the Ottawa Convention Ukraine successfully accomplished the project on elimination of 400 000 antipersonnel mines of PMN-type in the framework of NATO/PFP Trust Fund (with Canada being the lead-nation) in 2003. Unfortunately, our joint project with the European Commission on destruction of 6 millions of APLs was not accomplished, because it was unilaterally suspended by our European partners in 2007.

In this regard Ukraine is still looking for technical and financial assistance from its international partners.

It is important that Ukraine resume cooperation with the European Commission in the framework of the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) on the implementation of the Ukrainian National Programme (UNP) for 2011-2013. The new National Indicative Programme for 2011-2013, which comprises the sub-priority on the implementation of the Ottawa Convention, supposed to be finalized by signing a Memorandum of Understanding between Ukraine and the European Commission in the nearest future.

In the meantime the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine and European Commission started the consultations on the identification of possible projects to be funded by the EU under the ENPI envelop for 2011. European partners will support the soonest transfer to the Pavlograd Chemical Plant the disassembly equipment of GTZ Company. The EU is also ready to further assist in capacity building with a view of providing advise on the latest environmental and safety standards in line with the International Mine Action Standards.

Ukraine also made a proposal to start the APLs destruction within the NATO/PfP Trust Fund project, which is being considered by our US partners.

Dear colleagues,

Being asked about the expected completion date of the APLs destruction I would like to emphasize that such process is technically complicated, very expensive and time consuming.

In this regard we take all possible measures, in particular under the Order of the Minister of Defense of Ukraine № 491 of September 28, 2009, the APLs were removed from the operational status of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. All types of APLs were again included into the Inventory of ammunitions to be destroyed in 2010-2011 in accordance with the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine № 383-p dated February 02, 2010.

It is estimated that unique rotary kiln installed at Pavlograd Chemical would be capable to run up to 1 000 000 PFM a year. Therefore, the capacity of the single incinerator would ensure the implementation of Ukraine's international obligation under the Ottawa Convention within the period of 6 years at the soonest. Upon the condition of proper financing and operational capability of two incinerators Ukraine would be able to destroy up to 2 millions of APLs a year and fulfill its obligations within 3 years.

Dear colleagues,

I would like to stress that Ukraine remains open for the fruitful cooperation with the State Parties and potential donors and hopes for the practical assistance to make Ukrainian territory free from the APLs stockpiles of PFM-type as soon as possible.

To summarize my speech I would like to inform you that Ukrainian delegation proposes for your consideration the *non-paper* on the developments of implementation of the Ottawa Convention in Ukraine.

Thank you.