

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
DELIVERED AT THE 11TH MSP OF THE MINE BAN CONVENTION
[ARTICLE IV]
(PHNOM PENH, 28 NOV-2 DEC 2011)**

Mr President,

Full compliance with Article IV is undoubtedly one of the main pillars of the Ottawa Convention.

I shall now present the ultimate update regarding the destruction of stockpiled land-mines in Turkey.

Indeed, we had already reported last year at the 10.MSP in Geneva that, as of mid-October 2010, with the exception of 22,716 "Area Denial Antipersonnel Mines" (ADAM), all of the stockpiled landmines were completely destroyed in the Turkish Munitions Disposal Facility, and that a contract was signed with the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) for the destruction of the remaining 22,000 plus mines that required special handling. I had also informed the States Parties that these remaining mines had already been rendered unusable and that they were awaiting shipment to a third country with the proper facilities.

In line with our transparent and frank approach, we continued our regular updates during the Standing Committee meetings in June 2011. We had again informed the States Parties of the following:

- 1) On 16 November 2010, a contract was signed between the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) on behalf of the Turkish Government, and a company in Germany (Sprewerk Lübben GmbH) for the destruction of these mines containing depleted uranium.
- 2) A total number of 631 ADAM-type mines (each containing 36 sub-munitions, which makes the total quantity 22,716) left Turkish territory and were shipped to Germany in February 2011, where destruction activities began in March.

I am now able announce upon direct confirmation from the plant in Germany that the destruction of these mines has been fully completed on 21st June 2011.

Mr. President,

Even last year, Turkey had already completed the destruction of nearly 3 million mines at its own facility and ensured the destruction of the remaining small number of ADAM-type mines by signing a contract and arranging shipment for their destruction in a third country.

Even then, I must admit it was rather shocking and disappointing to hear some of the comments made by some participating delegations suggesting ongoing incompletion.

Clearly, the wording of Article IV is, for us, crystal clear when it mentions of destruction and ensuring destruction. We had destroyed nearly 3 million mines and ensured the destruction of a further 22,000 plus mines.

Mr. President,

Turkey's Article IV commitments have been fulfilled with national resources only. Let me remind colleagues that the "state-of-the-art" Munitions Disposal Facility where nearly 3 million of the mines were destroyed had been built solely to realize the destruction process required under Article IV of the Convention.

Mr. President,

I wish to sum up my words by stating that the Article IV chapter for Turkey is now firmly and definitively closed.

I thank you Mr. President.