



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Statement of the Netherlands
under agenda item 11 (e) on
Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines
Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Thank you Mr President,

The Netherlands much appreciates that the destruction of stock-piled anti-personnel mines under Article 4 is addressed this afternoon. We would like to acknowledge your efforts, Mr President, on this important topic.

We believe that stockpile destruction is a crucial step towards achieving our common objective to free the world from anti-personnel mines, as the destruction of these mines is an important step in guaranteeing that they will not be used. In that process, it is important to address the challenges that we face in a transparent manner. The Netherlands therefore welcomes your comprehensive report on the Status of Implementation of Article 4.

In that light, we firstly would like to congratulate Belarus for having completed their obligations under Article 4. It is a major achievement and we are glad the EU could contribute to this effort.

At the same time, we have to acknowledge that three states parties have reported that they are still in the process of implementing Article 4 of the Convention. We understand that for two States Parties, Greece and Ukraine, their deadline has expired for the implementation of article 4 and one State Party – Oman – has a deadline still to come.

We would like to reiterate the appeal, as was expressed by the Fifteenth Meeting of States Parties, to those States Parties which are effectively in non-compliance with their article 4 obligations to intensify efforts for the completion of their stockpile destruction obligations.

Because only if all remaining stockpiles of anti-personnel mines have been destroyed, we can guarantee that they at least will not be used again.

Thank you, Mr. President.