



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE & THE OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
GENEVA

**17th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty
Statement by Greece on Stockpile Destruction**

Madam President,

Allow me, at the outset, to congratulate you on your chairmanship during the 17th Meeting of the States Parties of the Anti – Personnel Mine Ban Convention, and wish you every success in steering us towards a positive outcome. I would like to assure you of Greece's full support in this endeavor.

Madam President, Dear Colleagues,

Since our last update during the intercessional meetings in June, the Hellenic Defense Systems (HDS) have completed the demilitarization of **183.176** APLMs thus reducing the current stockpile to **439.585**. Moreover, we would like to stress that HDS anticipates that an additional amount of **60.000** APLMs will be destroyed by the end of the year, notwithstanding of course any future unforeseen circumstances beyond our control.

Concerning the issue of APLMs in Bulgaria, I would like to inform you that last week the HDS completed the transfer of the **190.570¹** APLMs from the Bulgarian facilities to their warehouses at Lavrio Plant and have already begun the demilitarization process.

With the successful completion of the APLMs transfer from Bulgaria, allow me, Madam President, to seize this opportunity to underline that the way both sides handled this serious issue sets an example of how challenges related to the implementation of the Ottawa Convention can be addressed by the States Parties in a constructive and effective manner.

Madam President, Dear Colleagues,

Greece is in full compliance with its obligations stemming from the Maputo Action Plan and in particular with the provisions of Actions 5 and 6, as we regularly provide updated information, in a transparent and sincere manner, on our ongoing efforts to destroy the remaining APLMs stockpile.

In this context, when it comes to the use of the "non-compliance" term on stockpile destruction, Greece reiterates that it is of crucial importance to retain a clear distinction among different cases of non-fulfillment and in particular to duly take into account whether the non-compliance is willful or not.

¹ According to the 8 delivery Protocols issued by VIDEX Engineering 190.570 APLMs instead of 190.574 were delivered to the Hellenic Defence Systems.

Last but not least, I would like to reiterate that the Hellenic Republic fully recognizes its obligations stemming from the Ottawa Convention, and - despite the challenges which we have encountered - we have never wavered from our commitment to the Convention's implementation.

Thank you