

## 9e. STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION

The matter of stockpile destruction falls under the responsibility of the President. In this context, I am pleased to be able to report to you on the status of implementation of the stockpile destruction obligations.

At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties noted the importance of ensuring that all stockpiled anti-personnel mines are expeditiously destroyed in line with Article 4 of the Convention

As you all know, the number of States Parties for which Article 4 stockpile destruction obligations are still relevant is small, however some of the challenges faced by those remaining States in completing the implementation of Article 4 are persistent and have yet to be overcome.

At the close of the Oslo Review Conference, three States Parties reported that they were still in the process of implementing Article 4 of the Convention, including two States Parties – **Greece** and **Ukraine** – which have missed their deadlines and are in non-compliance with their Article 4 obligations and one State Party – **Sri Lanka** - with a deadline of 1 June 2022.

These three States Parties have provided updated information on the total number of stockpiled anti-personnel mines destroyed in 2019 and the total number remaining to be destroyed. I also welcome the fact that these they have provided a projected completion date for their destruction programme.

You will find more information in the progress report.

I will invite those States Parties which are still in the process of destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines, including previously

unknown stockpiles, to provide brief updates on the status of their stockpile destruction programmes, followed by any other delegation that wishes to speak under this agenda item.

At the Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties reemphasised that each mine destroyed potentially represents a life or a limb saved. To this end States Parties committed to not only ensure that all stockpiled anti-personnel mines held should be destroyed but also that antipersonnel mines retained for permitted purposes under Article 3 shall not exceed the minimum absolutely necessary.

In Action #16, States Parties committed to annually review the number of mines retained to ensure they do not exceed the minimum absolutely necessary for permitted purposes and destroy all anti-personnel mines that exceed this number.