

# **ANTI-PERSONEL MINE BAN CONVENTION.**

## **20th Meeting of State Parties**

**(Geneva 21-25 November 2022)**

### **STATEMENT BY GREECE ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION**

Mr President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, as well as the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), on your tireless efforts for the impeccable organization of this very important meeting in the field of Multilateral Disarmament and to assure you of our delegation's full support in your endeavors. We are more than confident that given your extended experience you will guide this conference towards a positive outcome.

Mr President, Dear Colleagues,

Since the intersessional meetings in Geneva, last June, I am pleased to inform you that the competent department of the Hellenic Army General Staff concluded the necessary internal procedures and a revised contract with the Hellenic Defense Systems (HDS) company will be signed on the upcoming days which will put the destruction of the APLMs back on track.

The amendments in the said contract provide, inter alia, that the destruction of the remaining APLMs stockpile will take place at the installations of the new subcontractor of the HDS, namely the DEMIL-TECH company in Croatia, within a period of 18 months following the signature of the revised contract, notwithstanding of course any future unforeseen circumstances beyond our control.

Mr President, Dear Colleagues,

Since its accession to the Ottawa Convention, the Hellenic Republic has spared no efforts in order to comply with all its obligations. With regard to our obligations emanating from Article 4 of the Convention, we have always addressed the complications which have arisen with the utmost transparency and sincerity. These complications should not in any way be construed as a deliberate failure or lack of willingness to comply with the Convention's obligations, but rather as a hurdle due to circumstances beyond our control.

Last but not least, we would like to reiterate that the Hellenic Republic fully recognizes its obligations emanating from the Ottawa Convention and remains committed to our common goal for a world free of APLMs.

Thank you.