



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

Intersessional Meetings of the States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty

Geneva, 18-20 June 2024

Statement on Stockpile Destruction

Mr. President, Esteemed Colleagues,

At the outset, we would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the President of the 5th Review Conference, H.E. Ly Thuch, and his team, as well as to the Implementation Support Unit, for their tireless efforts in organizing this highly significant meeting in the field of Multilateral Disarmament.

Your unwavering dedication ensures the success and tangible outcome of the upcoming Review Conference in Siem Reap, and we would like to assure you of our delegation's full support for your endeavors.

Mr. President, Dear Colleagues,

Greece, despite the multilevel challenges it has faced for the destruction of its Anti-Personnel Landmines (APLMs) stockpile, remains fully committed to our shared goal of a world free of APLMs. In this vein, Greece has undertaken all feasible efforts to fulfill its contractual obligations under the Ottawa Treaty and has thus ensured the destruction of its APLMs stockpile through a contractual agreement with the Hellenic Defence Systems (HDS) company.

In light of the above, we would like to provide a brief update on our continued efforts to destroy the remaining stockpile of APLMs since the 21st States Parties meeting.

Mr. President, Dear Colleagues,

On May 28, 2024, the 6th amendment to the contract between HDS company and the competent Department of the Hellenic Army General Staff for the destruction of the remaining APLMs stockpile was signed. This amendment foresees that the transportation and destruction of the remaining quantity of APLMs at the installations of Demil-Tech company in Croatia will be concluded by the end of May 2025, notwithstanding, of course, any future unforeseen circumstances beyond our control.

Moreover, since the 21MSP, 24,761 APLMs have been safely transferred to the facilities of Demil-Tech company in Croatia for destruction. Of this quantity, 18.209 APLMs have already been destroyed. Furthermore, a load of 10,000 APLMs is scheduled to be transferred to Croatia for destruction by the end of June.

At this point, we would like to underline that the issue that had arisen with the contractual obligation for the countersignature of the relevant destruction protocols of the APLMs by the Croatian authorities has been resolved. Therefore, we extend our sincere appreciation to the Croatian Ministry of Defence for its exceptional level of cooperation thus far.

Mr. President, Dear Colleagues,

Since becoming a party to the Ottawa Convention, Greece has spared no effort in meeting all its contractual obligations. Regarding our commitment arising from Article 4 of the Convention, we have consistently addressed the complications that have arisen with utmost transparency and sincerity. These challenges should not be construed as intentional failure or a lack of willingness to comply with the Convention's obligations, but rather as obstacles resulting from circumstances beyond our control.

Thank you.