

**STATEMENT**  
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**ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**  
**TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION**  
**7 DECEMBER 2000**  
**GENEVA**

Mr. Co-Chairman,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

In my presentation I would like to highlight the state of affairs in the Republic of Belarus connected with the landmine stockpile destruction problem and steps taken by Belarus for the last six months.

The Belarus Armed Forces have 4.5 million stockpiled anti-personnel landmines, of which 3.6 million are of the PFM-1/1C type.

Since the 1997 Amended Protocol II ratification, Belarus has currently destroyed 8,183 APMs.

The destruction of stockpiled PFM-1/1S mines is still the object of a number of technical questions, to which the international community as a whole needs to find answers.

Belarus hosted the UNMAS-led multi-disciplinary and inter-agency mission in Minsk from 31 July – 4 August 2000.

The mission has assessed the scope of the landmine/UXO problem in the country, evaluated its humanitarian and socio-economic impact and identified possible requirements for UN and international assistance.

The UN Assessment Mission has declared that Belarus has no capacity to destroy its PFM-1/1S mines without international assistance.

The efforts by the Belarus authorities to ensure transparency and full consultation were recognised and appreciated by the UNMAS assessment team.

Belarus expresses a willingness along with the international society to join the ban movement, complying with the terms of the Ottawa Convention and to join it in the foreseeable future, i.e. after the problems of financial assistance and environmental issues in the Belarus stockpile destruction are solved.

Thank you for your attention.